

A photograph of a mixed conifer forest. The scene is filled with tall, straight tree trunks, likely pines or firs, rising from a forest floor covered in green ferns and other vegetation. In the foreground, there are several fallen, weathered logs. The background is a dense canopy of green needles. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

Mixed Conifer Forests 101

What and Where are They?

Vegetation Classification

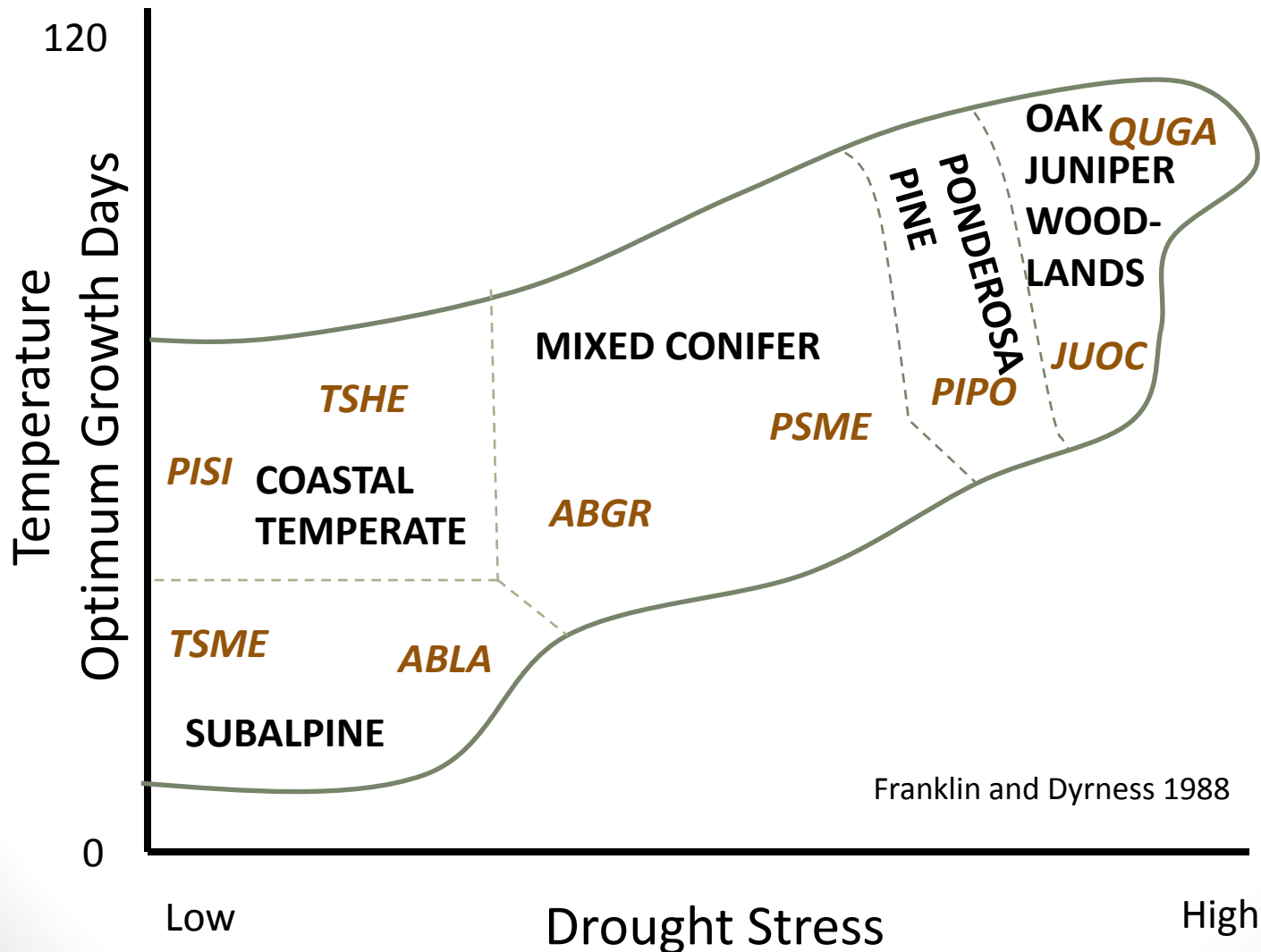
- **Series Level—Climax/late successional tree species in that environment, e.g. Ponderosa Pine, Grand Fir, Mountain Hemlock**
- **Plant Associations (Climax overstory/understory community)**
- **Various subdivisions and aggregations of the above**

A Definition of Mixed Conifer Forests

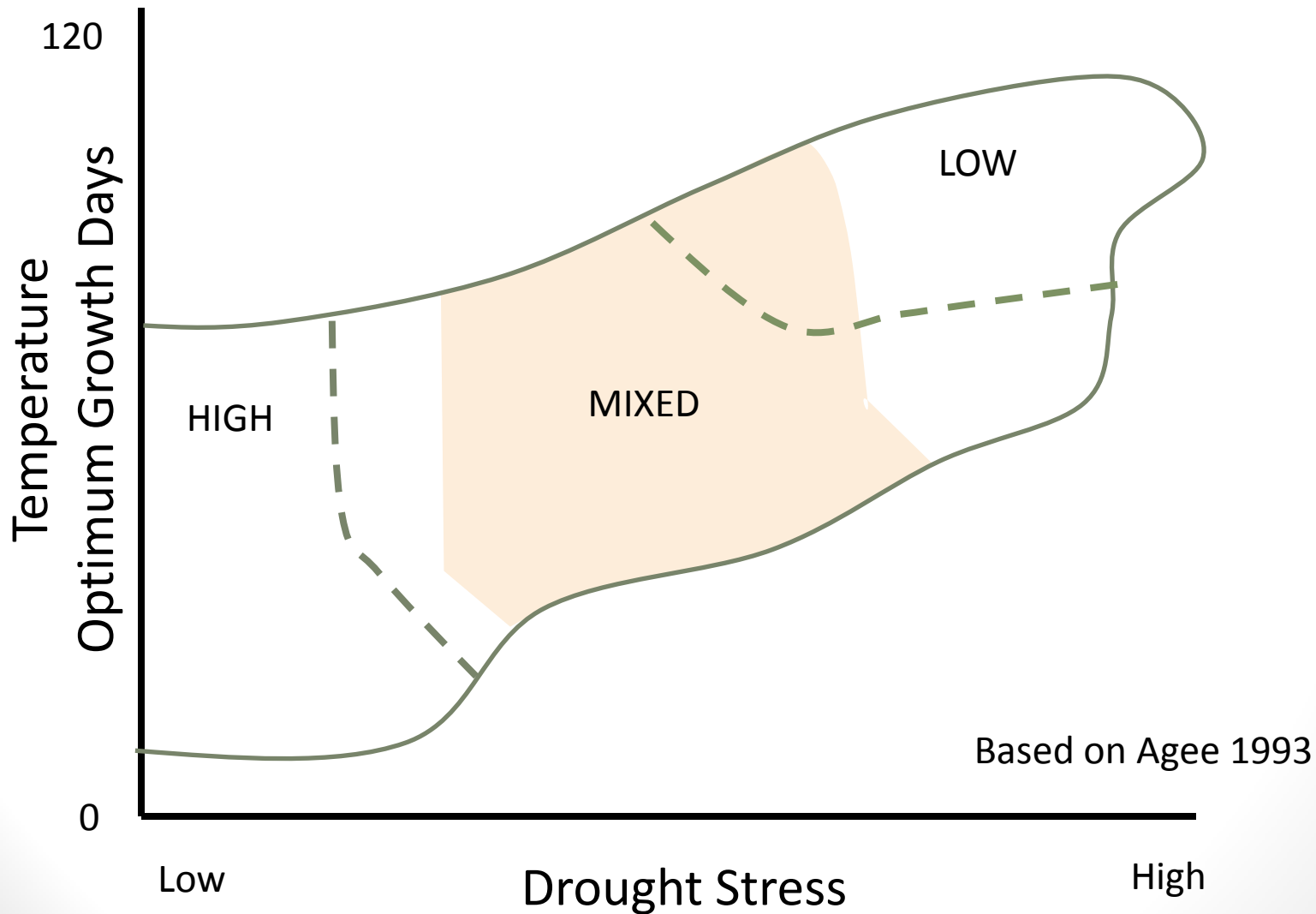
Diverse Forest Type where:

1. Grand fir, white fir, Douglas-fir are the late-successional species (e.g. Series)
2. Typically contain old shade-intolerant/fire-tolerant species:
 - Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, or western larch
3. Low to mixed-severity fire regime
4. Not too hot and dry, not too cold and wet
5. More productive than Ponderosa Pine

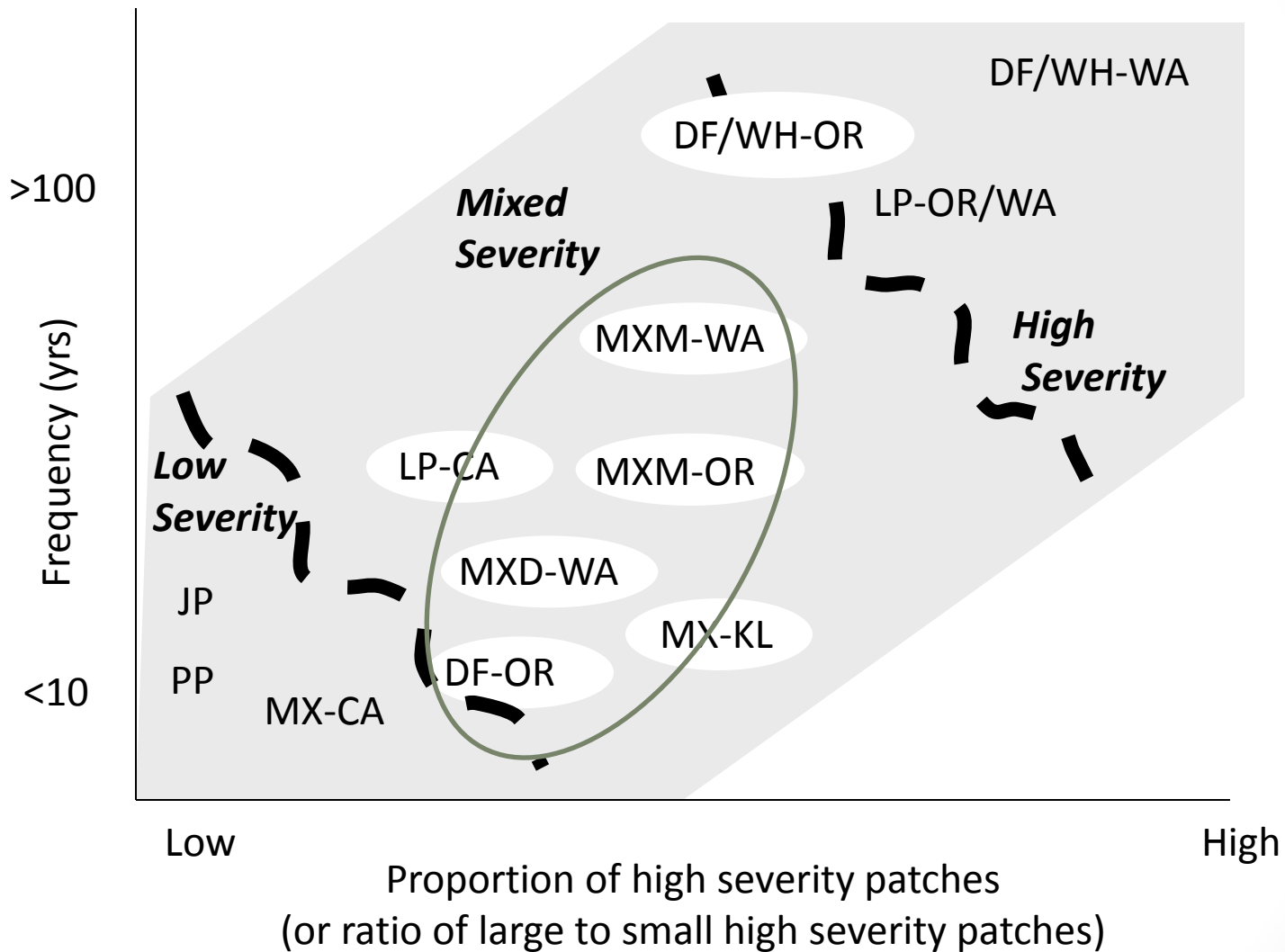
Environmental Distribution of Major Forest Types and *Series*



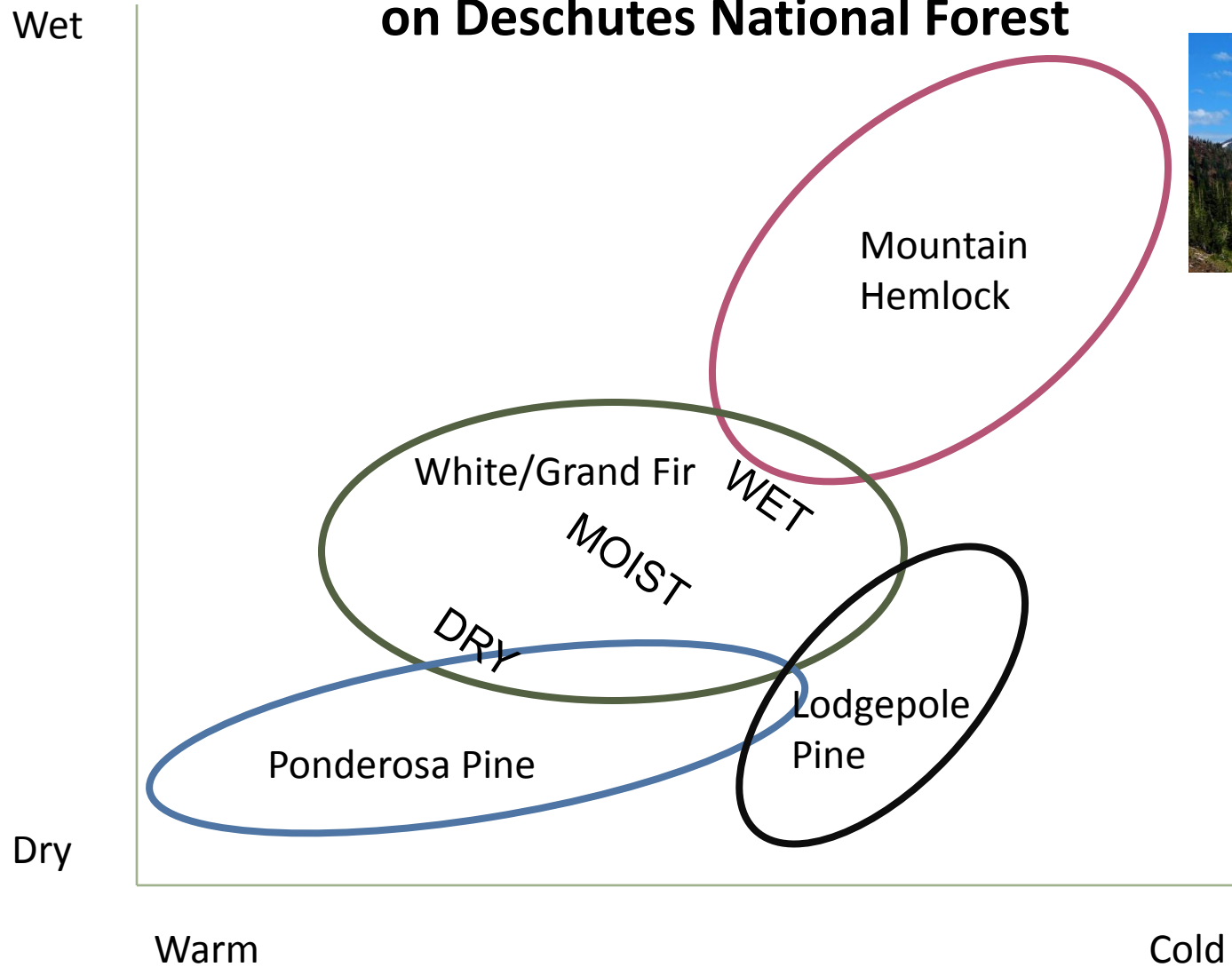
Dominant Fire Severity Regimes



Fire regimes of Plant Association Groups In NWFP Area



Environmental Distribution of Major Plant Association Groups on Deschutes National Forest



Old growth mixed-conifer Central Oregon

Xeric Dry-mixed conifer



Mesic Wet-mixed conifer



Potential Vegetation Type	Typical Range of fire return intervals	Range of fire severities
Ponderosa Pine (dry to wet), Dry/Moist Douglas-fir, Dry Mixed Conifer, dry Grand Fir	7-25 years	Primarily Low and mixed surface fire dominated
Moist Mixed Conifer, Moist Grand Fir, and Douglas-fir	25-50 years	Mixed, with some high and low
Moist to Wet Grand Fir, Moist Mixed Conifer	50-100 years	Mixed to high, with some low
Wet Grand Fir, Cool Dry Subalpine Fir	>100 years	High with some mixed

Major Potential Vegetation Groups ILAP

Area of Dry and Moist
Mixed Conifer ~ 12 million ac

