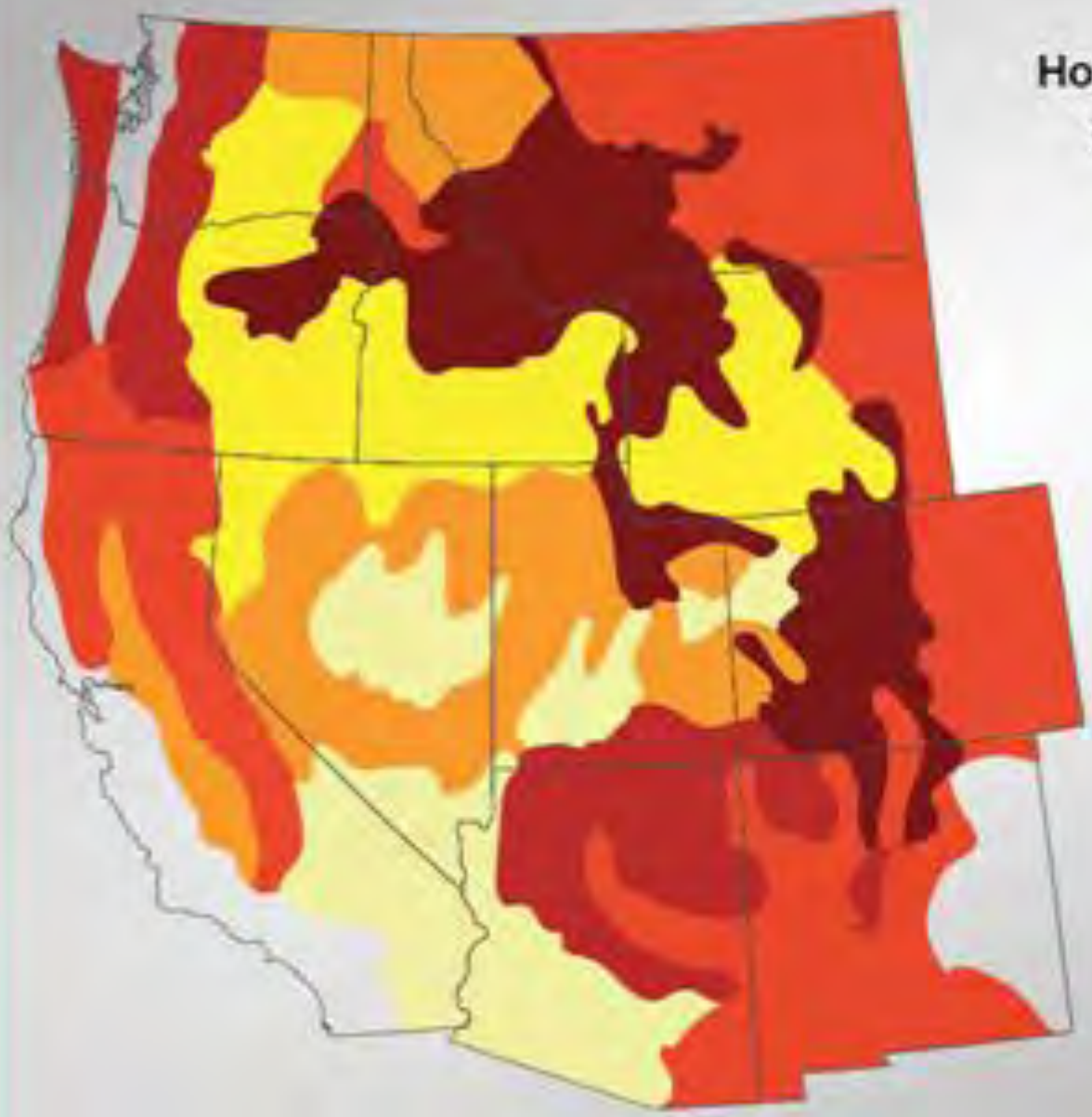
How Wildfire Affects Our Management of the Landscape, and How Can We Use it as a Tool?

Truisms

- Upward trend in wildfire acres over past 30 years
- Trend likely to continue into the future

Higher Temperatures Will Increase Burn Areas In the West



How much more area will burn each year if temperatures rise 1.8 °F:

- at least 6 times more
- 5-6 times more
- 4-5 times more
- 3-4 times more
- 2 - 3 times more
- up to 2 times more

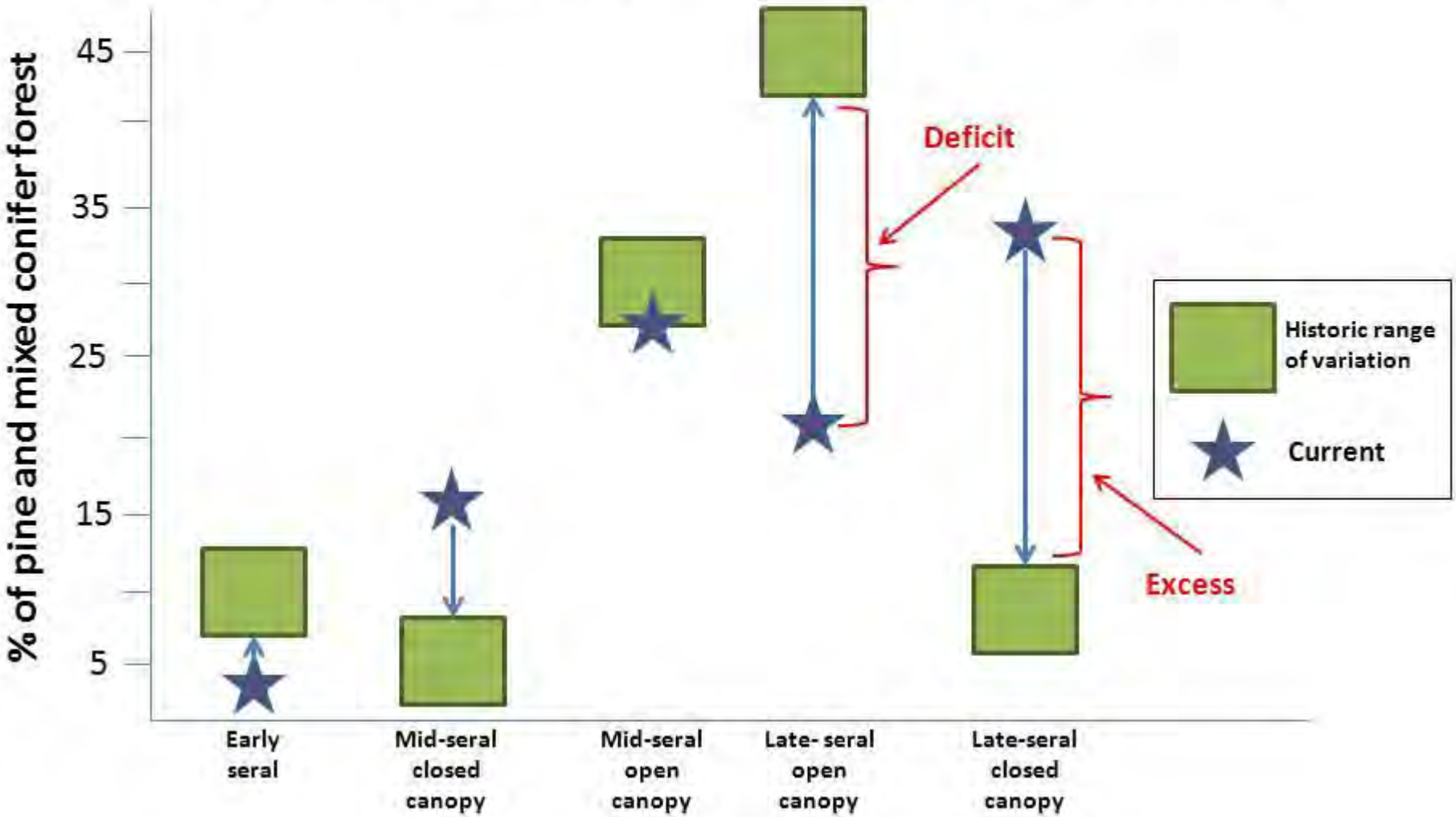
Truisms

- Public forest landscapes not well prepared for fire
- More people in/near public forests, influences priorities for fire and fuels management

Truisms

- There are differences in “presettlement” wildfire regime and fire effects between dry forest and moist forest
- Fire exclusion has caused impacts in dry forests that are easy to see
- We can develop zones of agreement about appropriate treatments

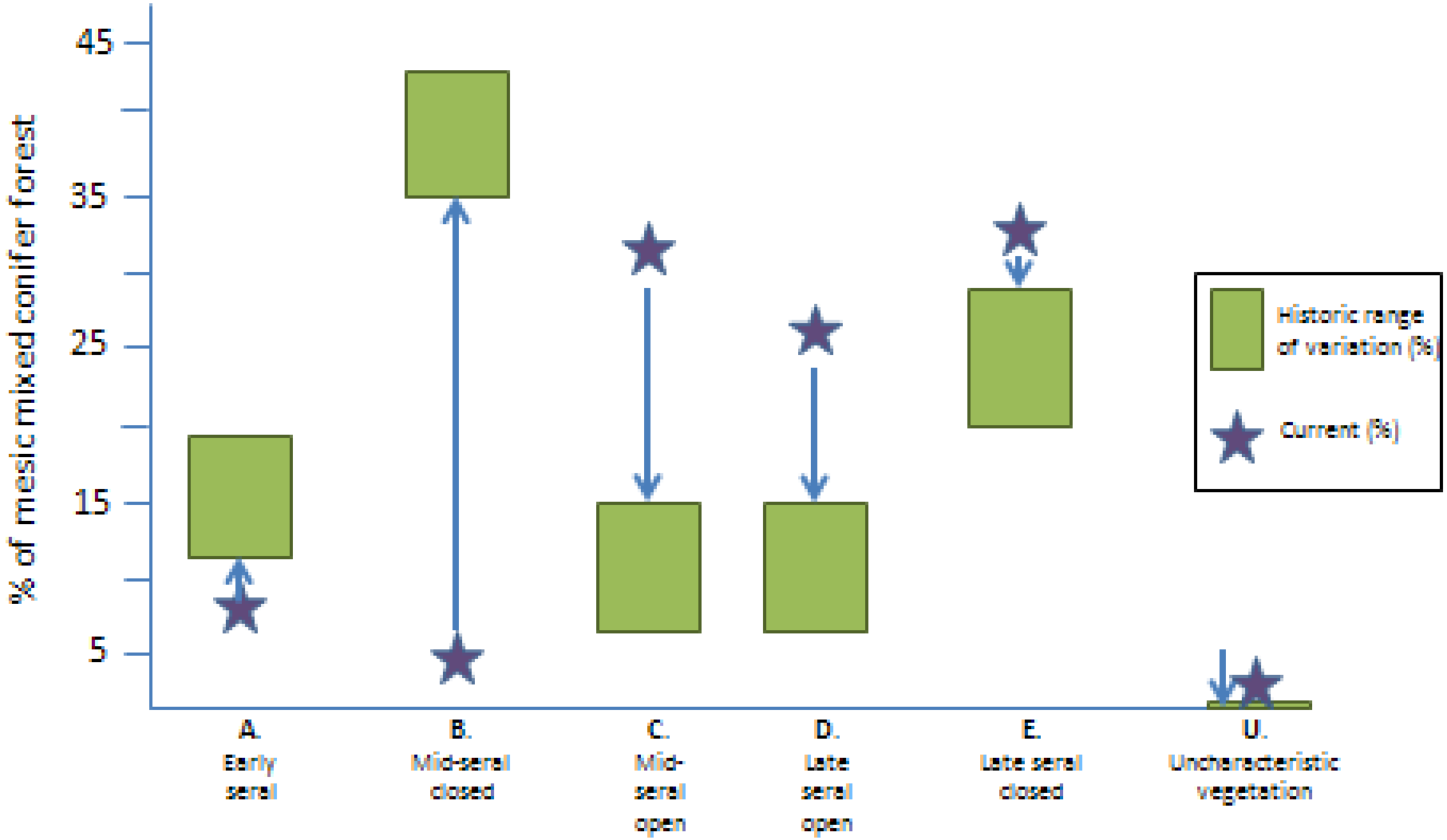
Current Forest Conditions for Ponderosa Pine and Dry Mixed Conifer Forests on National Forest Lands in the Blue Mountains



Fire and Fuels Management in Moist Mixed Conifer Forests

- Truisms?

Current Forest Conditions for Mesic Mixed Conifer Forests on National Forest Lands in the Blue Mountains



Fire Management in Moist Mixed Conifer Forests

- Fewer problem fires
- Shorter fire season
- Traditional fuels management is focused on protection, not restoration

Take Homes

- Important differences between pine/dry mixed conifer and mesic mixed conifer
- Restoration objectives easier to agree on in dry sites
- Moist forest treatments more aimed at protection, less agreement on restoration
- Dry mixed conifer forest act same as pine forest, not same as moist mixed conifer