1909 photo

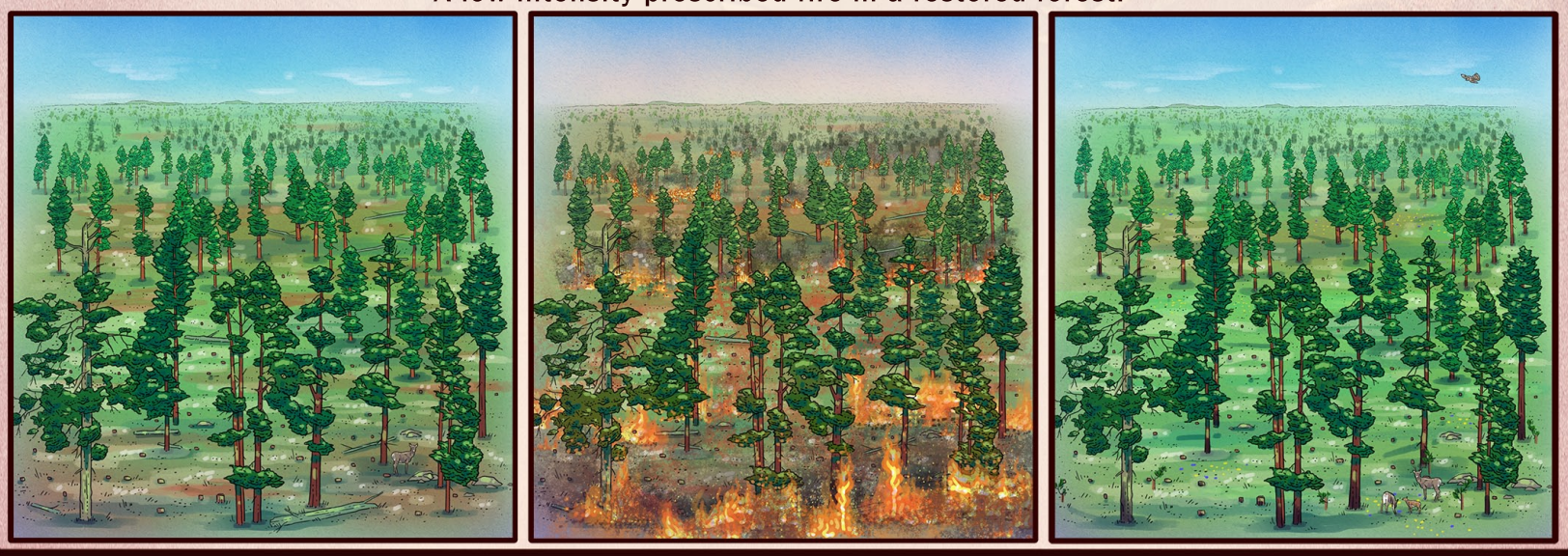
1992 photo

This photo series from northern Arizona shows a landscape changing through time as a result of fire suppression.

It's not "IF" a fire is going to happen, it's "WHEN" and "WHAT KIND" of fire

Fire has long been a part of northern Arizona forest landscapes. More than a century of fire suppression has shown that, despite the best efforts to suppress fire, dry and windy conditions can easily result in wildfires. The severity of fires is often dependent on the density of trees. Forest managers understand that by restoring forest structure and by burning under prescribed conditions, fire can be used as an important ecosystem management tool and the risk of uncontrolled high-severity fires can be reduced. The following illustrations show how forest structure influences fire severity.

A low-intensity prescribed fire in a restored forest:



As you walk around the forest at Ft. Tuthill, you will notice many openings. These openings mimic natural forest conditions and reduce the risk of a high-severity fire.

A high-severity wildfire in an unnaturally dense forest:

Look to your right. This area of dense trees was not thinned to serve as an example of the dense forest conditions that can lead to severe wildfires.

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