Flexible applications of the AKVEG Map

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Acknowledgements

AKVEG Development Team
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Moose Forage Biomass Team
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Bill Collins, Don Spalinger (ADF&G)

Funding & In-Kind Support
ADF&G, BLM, USFWS (Refuges & NWI), NPS, USFS, NRCS

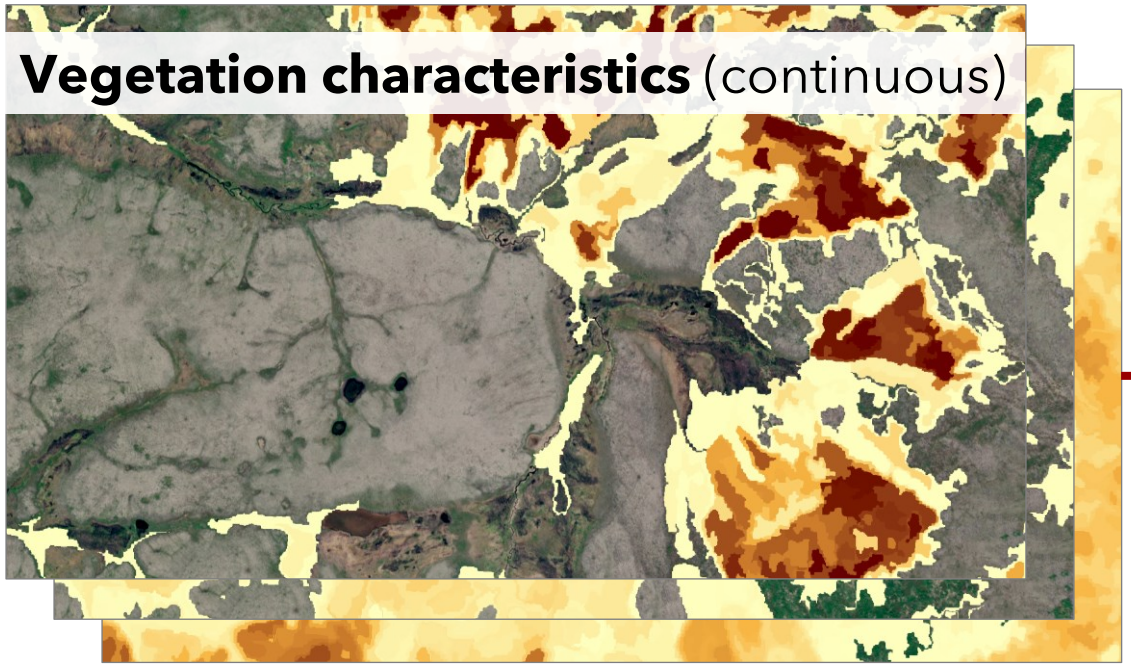
Field Data
Numerous ecologists and technicians for over 30 years!

AKVEG Map: high ecological and spatial resolution

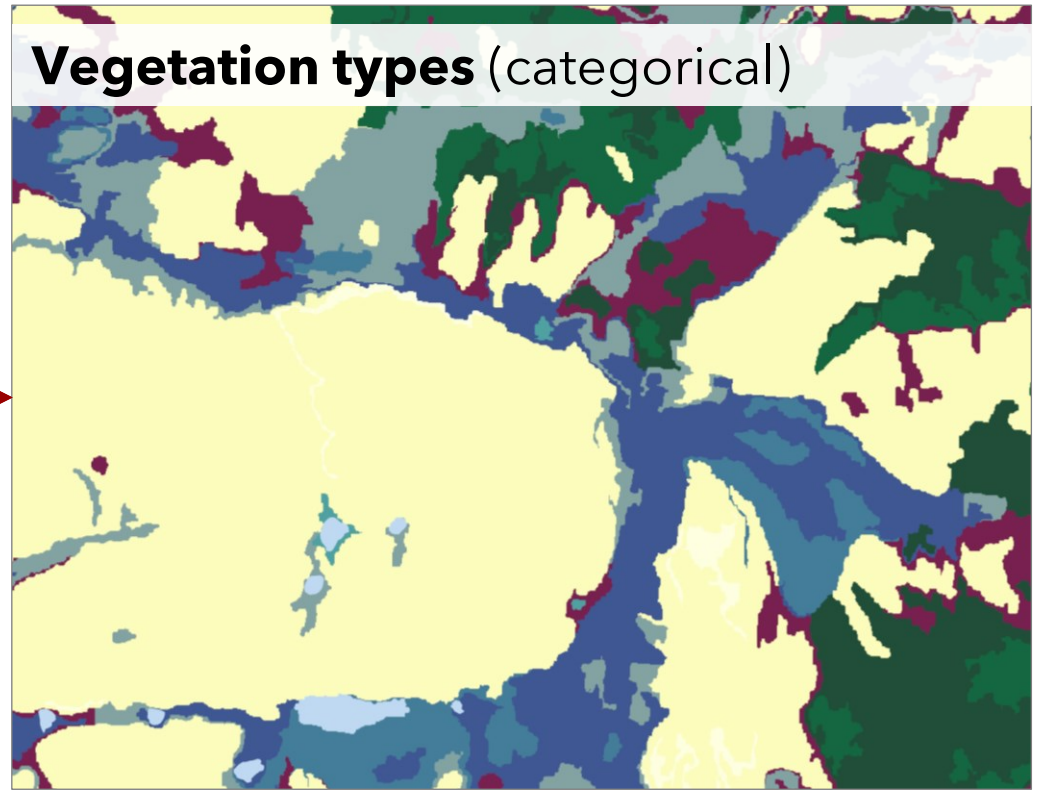
United States National Vegetation Classification

USNVC

Organizes "what" is mapped

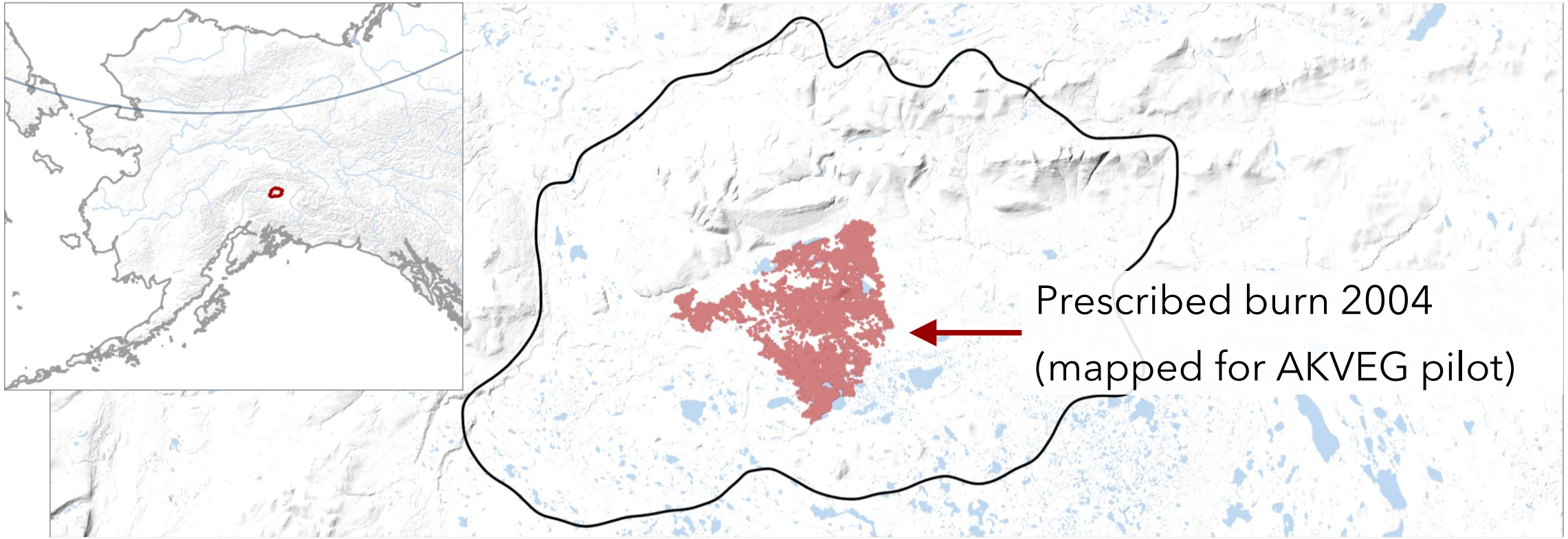


Quantify "what is present" in numbers



Describe "how the vegetation looks"

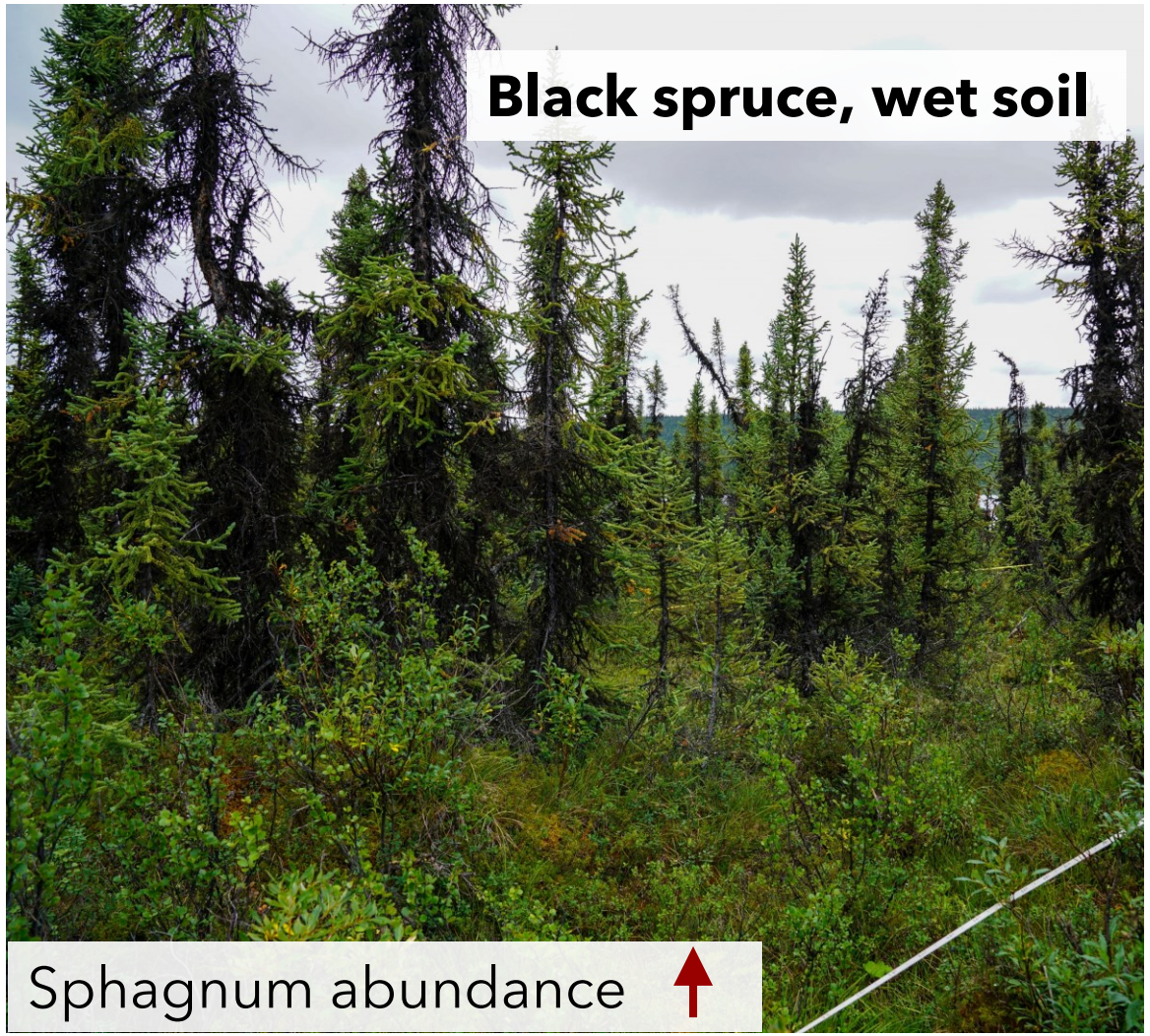
Prescribed burn planned for Alphabet Hills

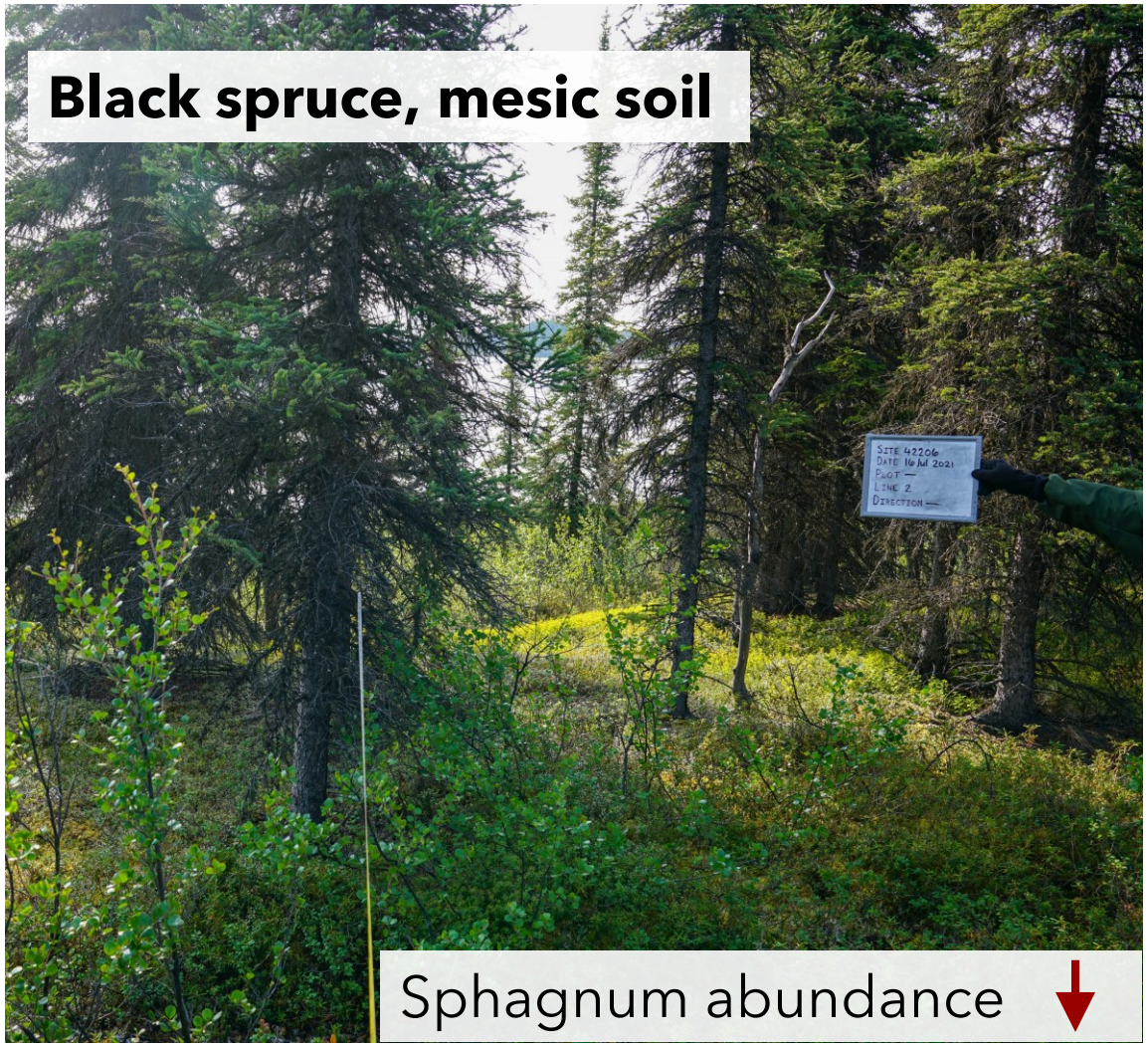


BLM Environmental Assessment (May 2021)

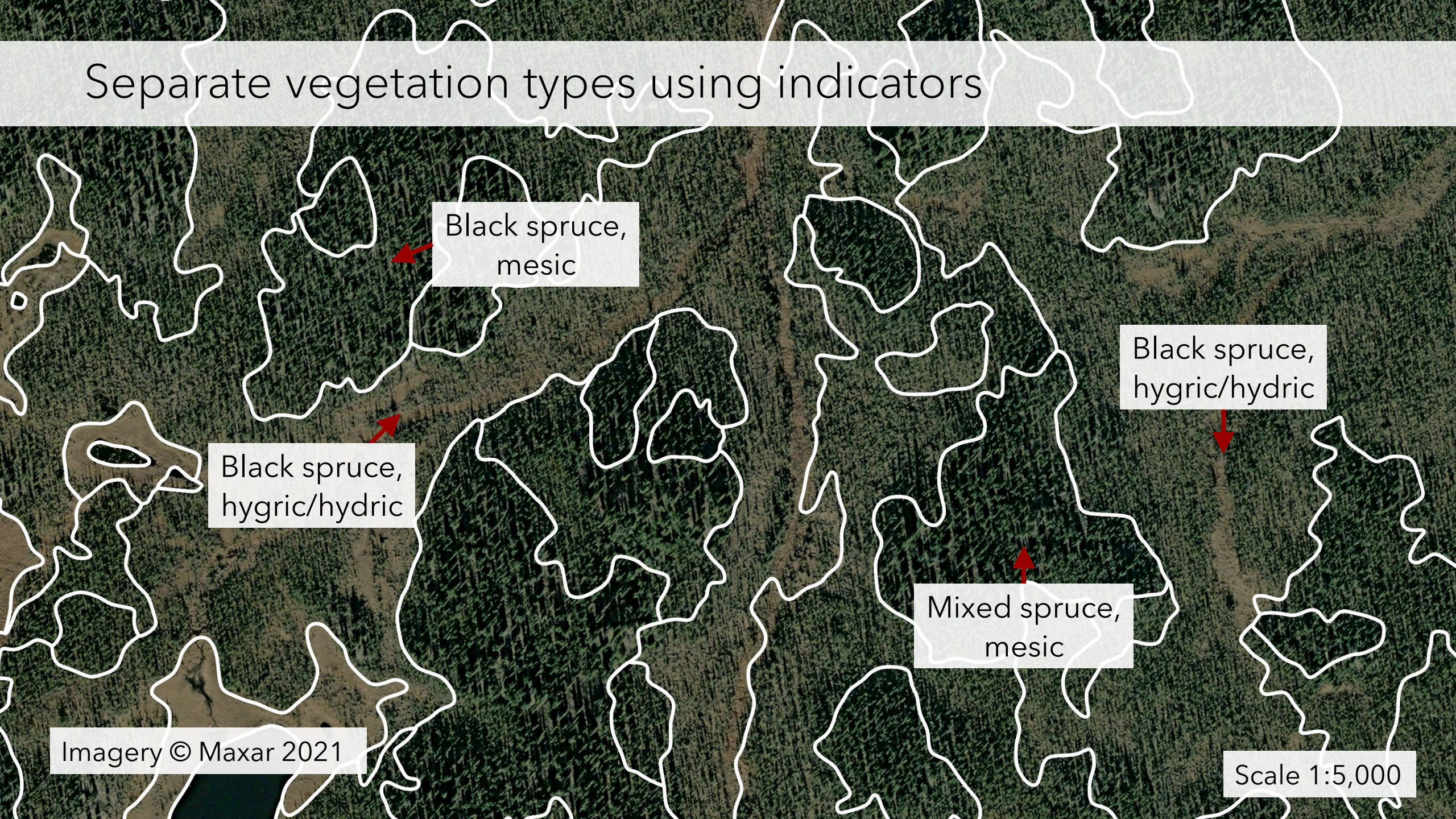
1. Vegetation regeneration?
2. Recreational experience in Wild & Scenic River Corridor affected?
3. Moose habitat?

Separate vegetation types using indicators





Separate vegetation types using indicators



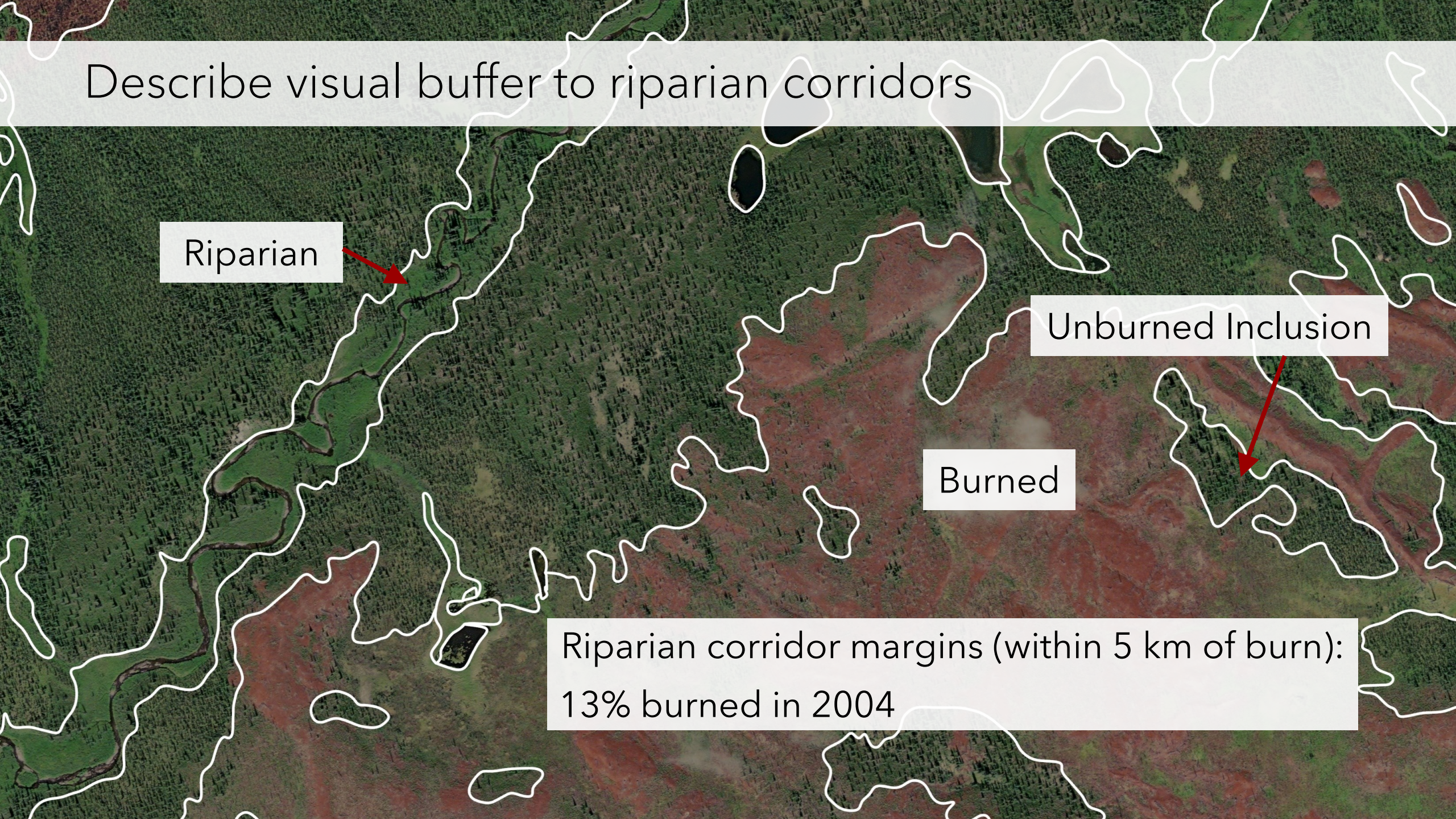
Describe vegetation regeneration ~15 years post-fire

77% of burned area (2004)

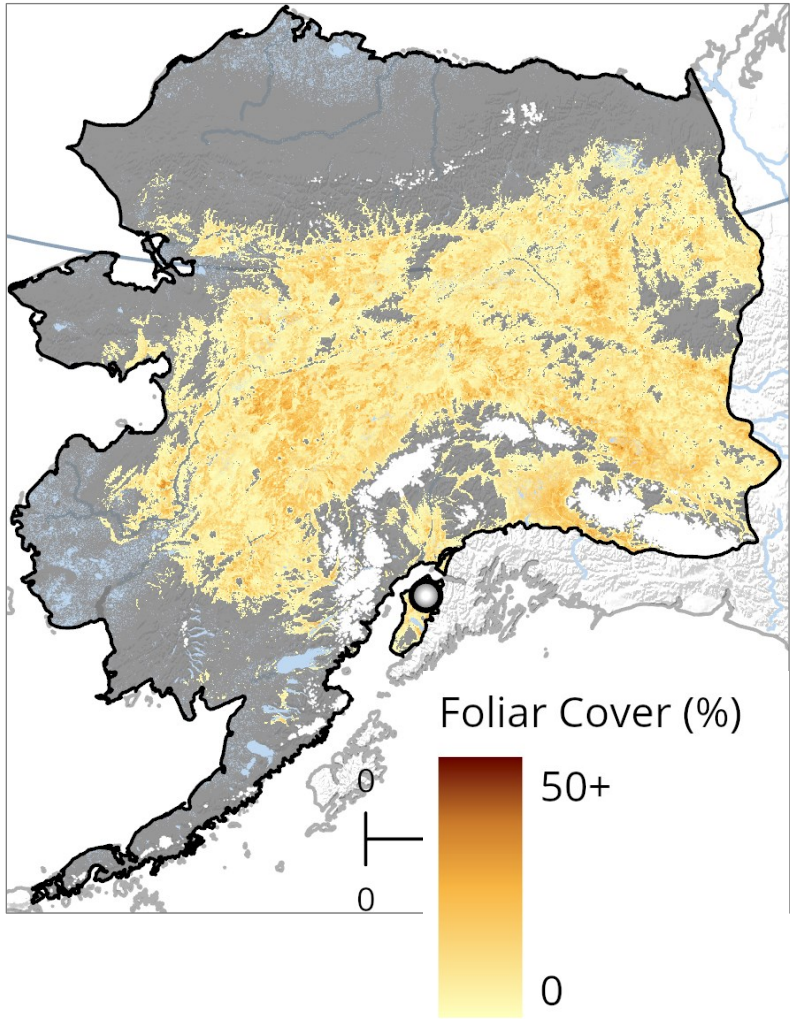
17% of burned area (2004)

Expectation: White spruce-dominated → Black spruce-dominated

Describe visual buffer to riparian corridors



Calibrate moose “foodscape” using AKVEG Map



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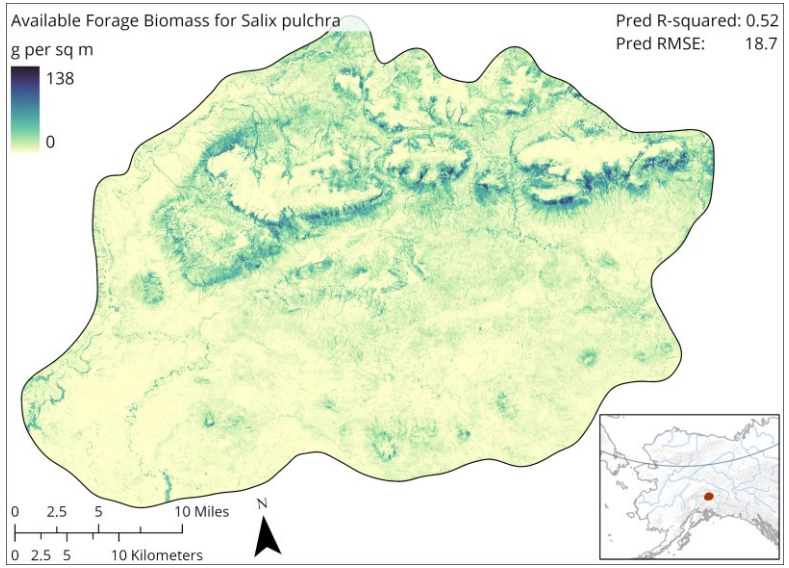


Animals don’t eat vegetation types!

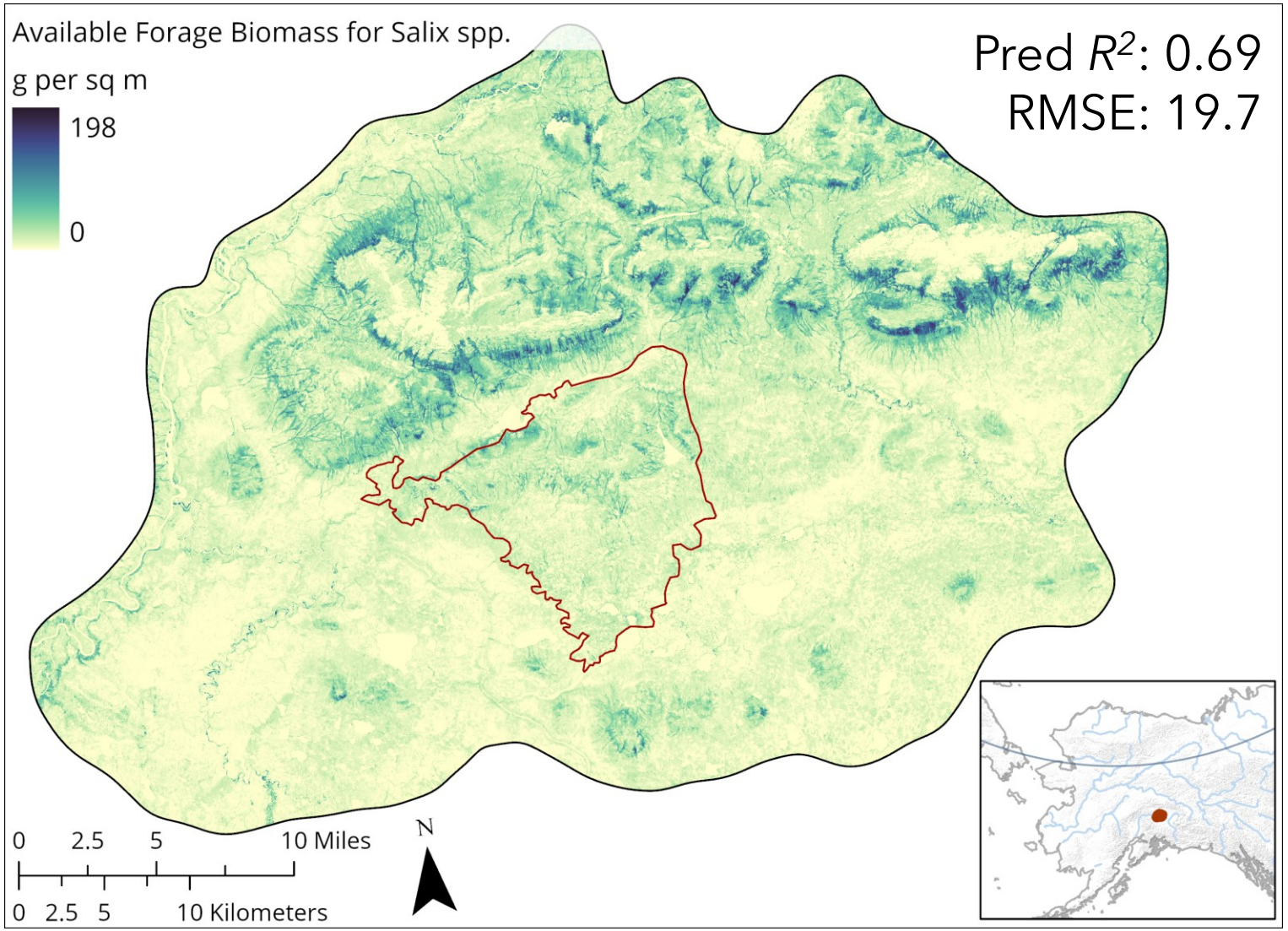
AKVEG Map vegetation characteristics used to calibrate moose “Foodscape”

Results: Willow (*Salix* spp. > 50 cm tall)

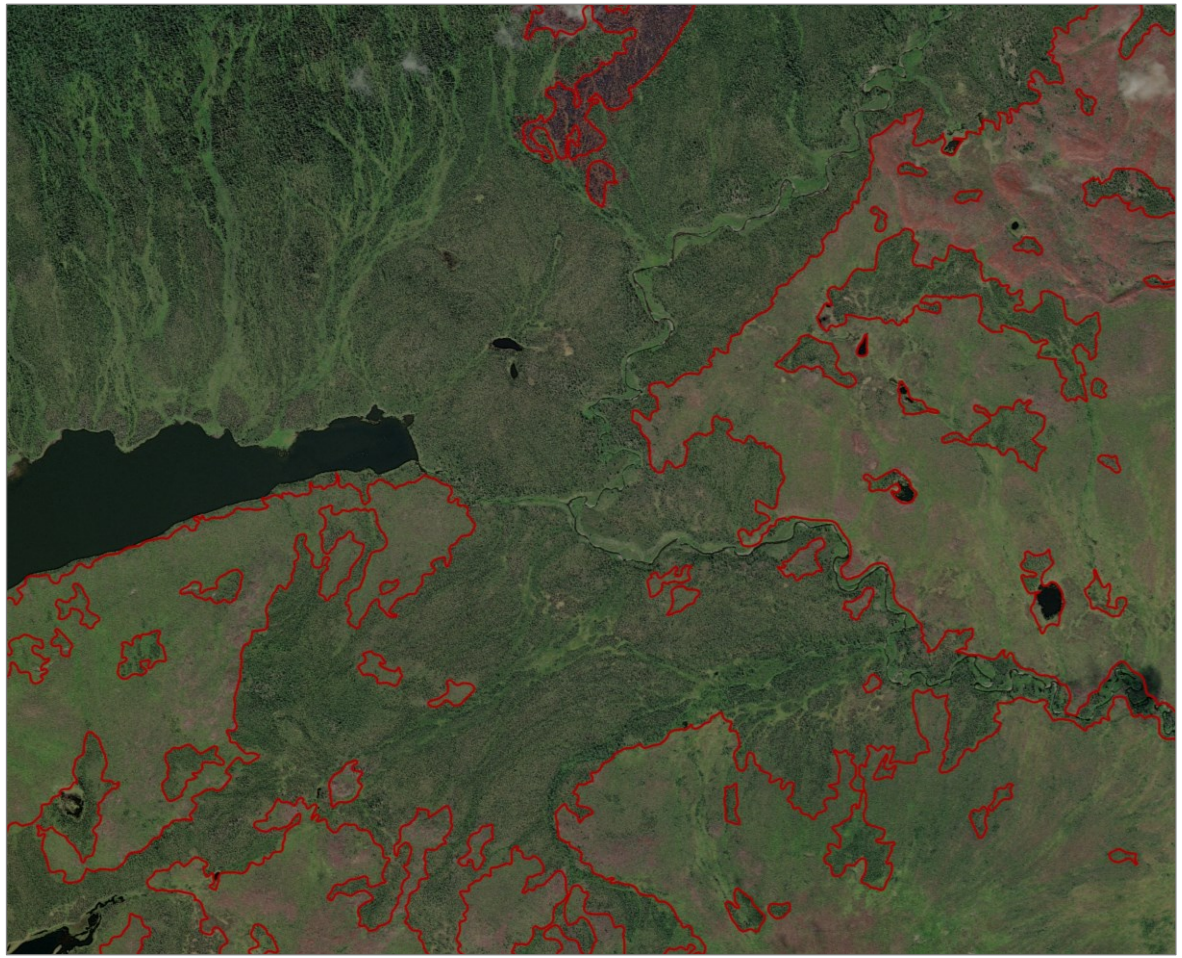
Mean g per sq m
(within 5 km of burn):
Burned | 15
Unburned | 19

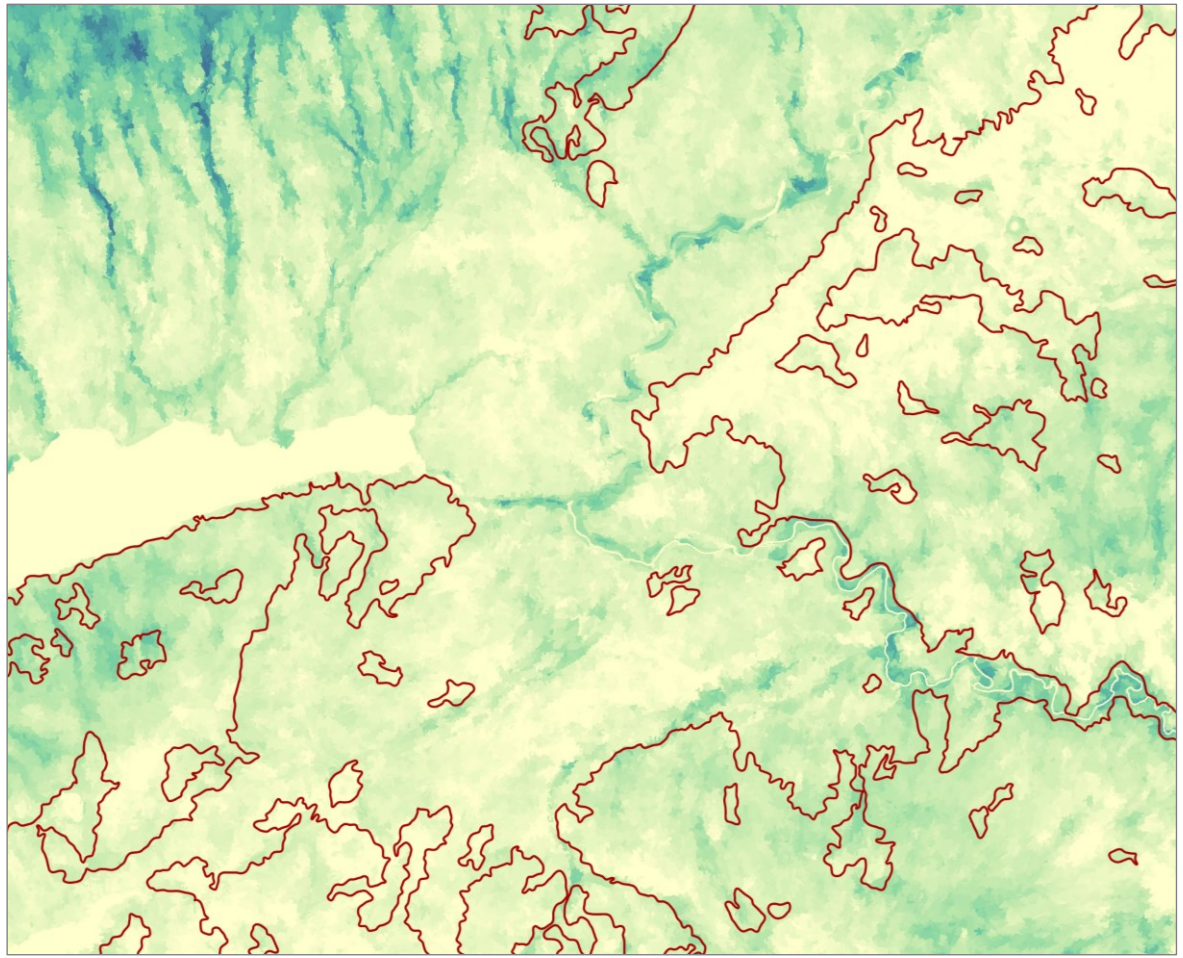
Monitoring the means is <u>not</u> biologically relevant!

AKVEG Map enables repeat monitoring that is spatially explicit (biologically meaningful).



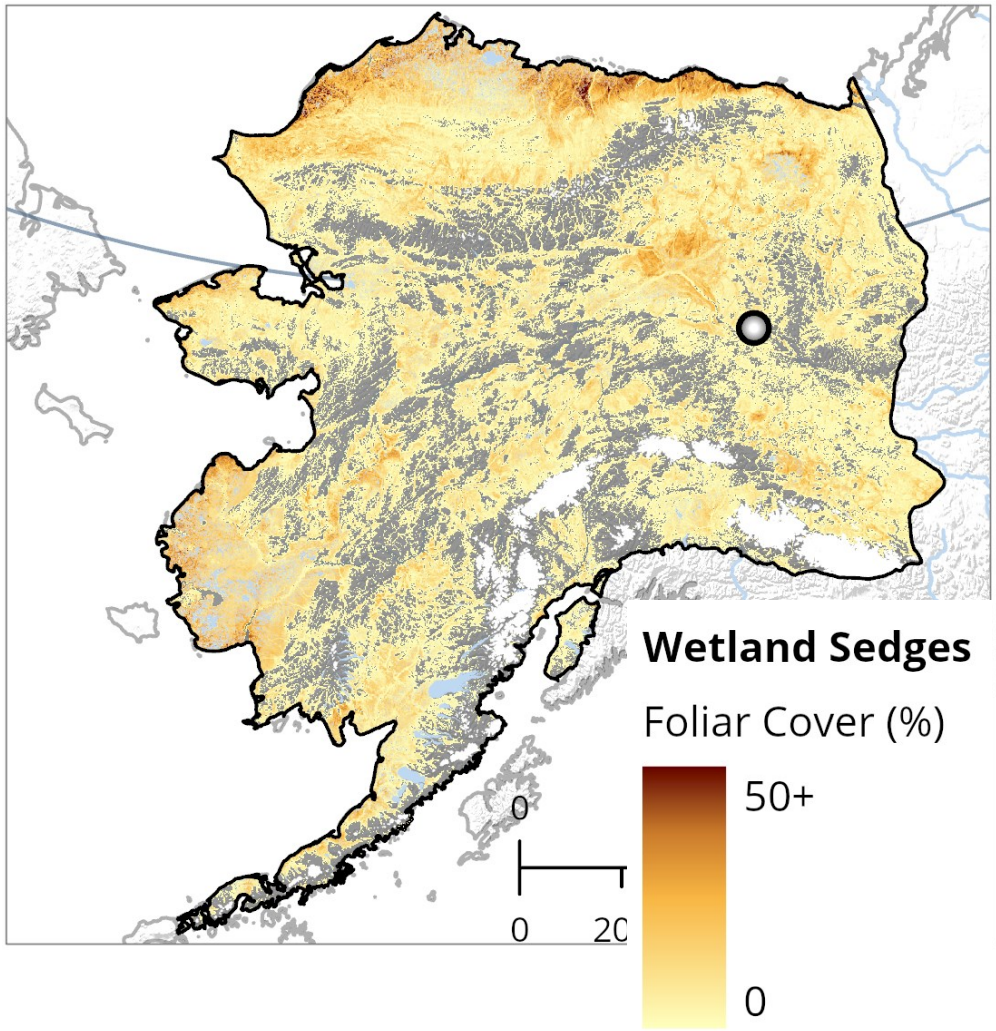
After 15 years, no clear increase of “food” within burn





But… biomass expected to peak 20-30 years post fire & willow diversity is higher.

Statewide in extent



Flexible to local applications