

A 700-yr history of fire: Santa Fe watershed

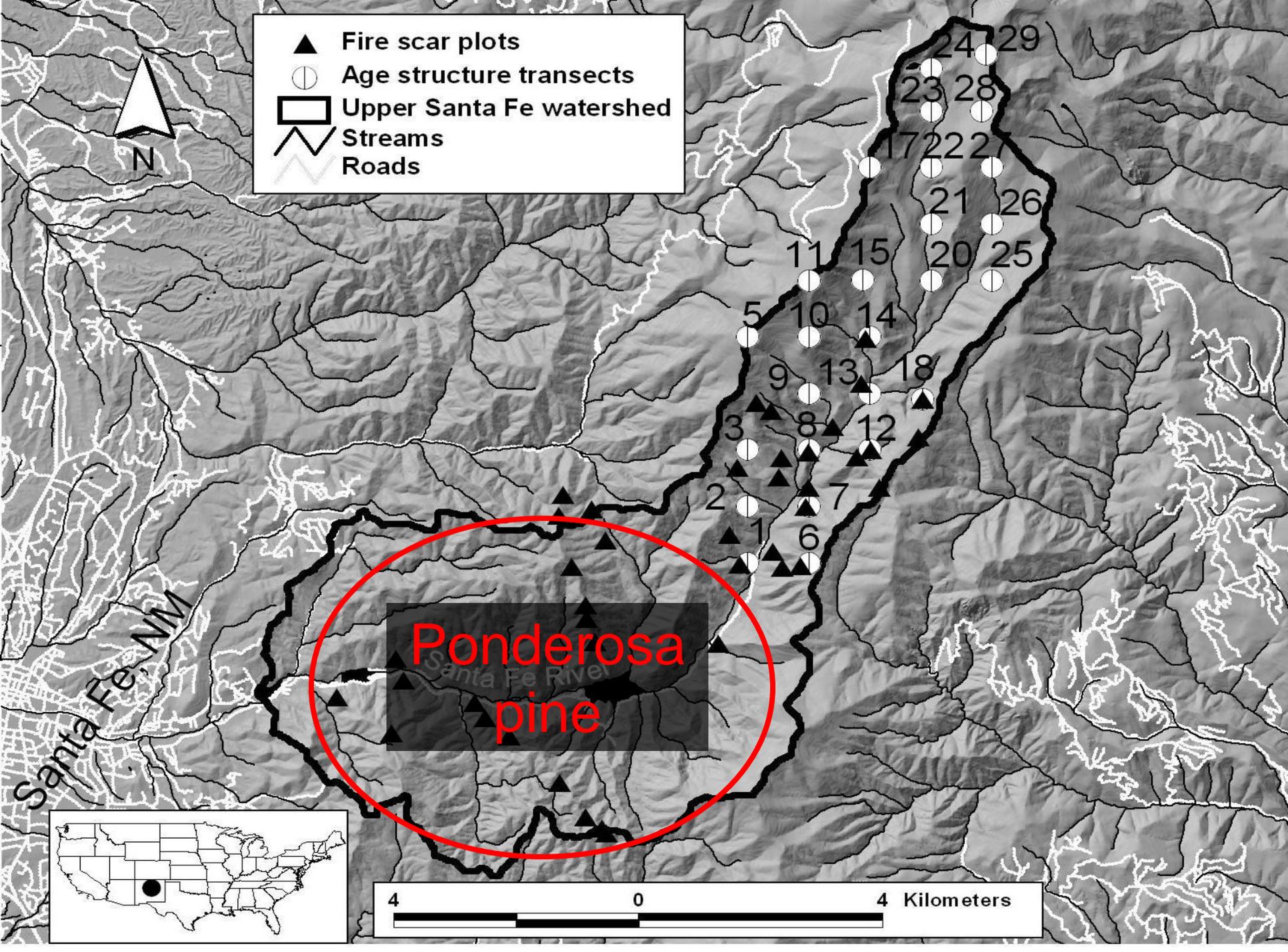


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Fire scar sampling

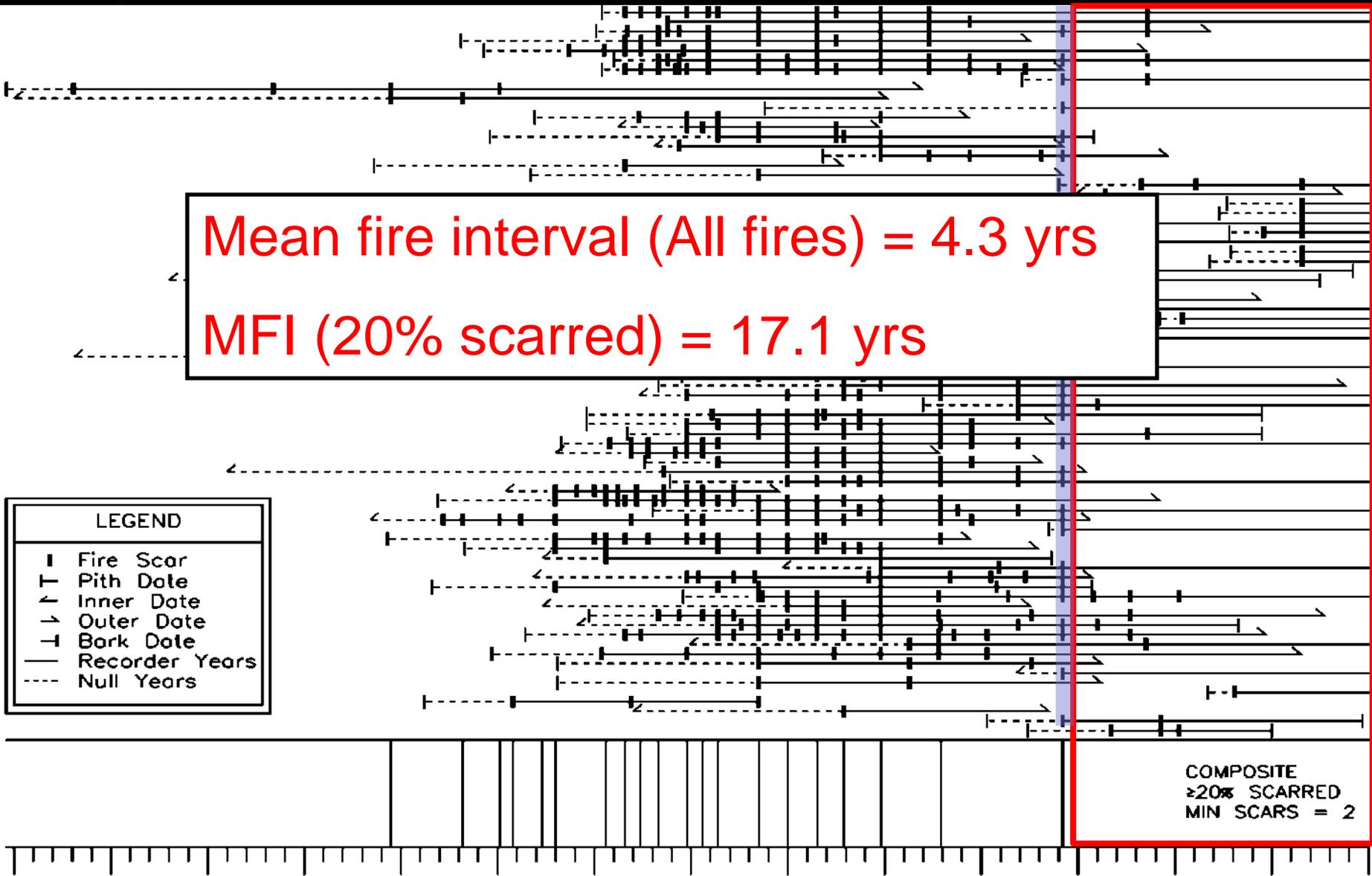


Ponderosa pine fire history (1296-2004)

Mean fire interval (All fires) = 4.3 yrs

MFI (20% scarred) = 17.1 yrs

LEGEND	
┆	Fire Scar
┆	Pith Date
┆	Inner Date
┆	Outer Date
┆	Bark Date
—	Recorder Years
- - -	Null Years



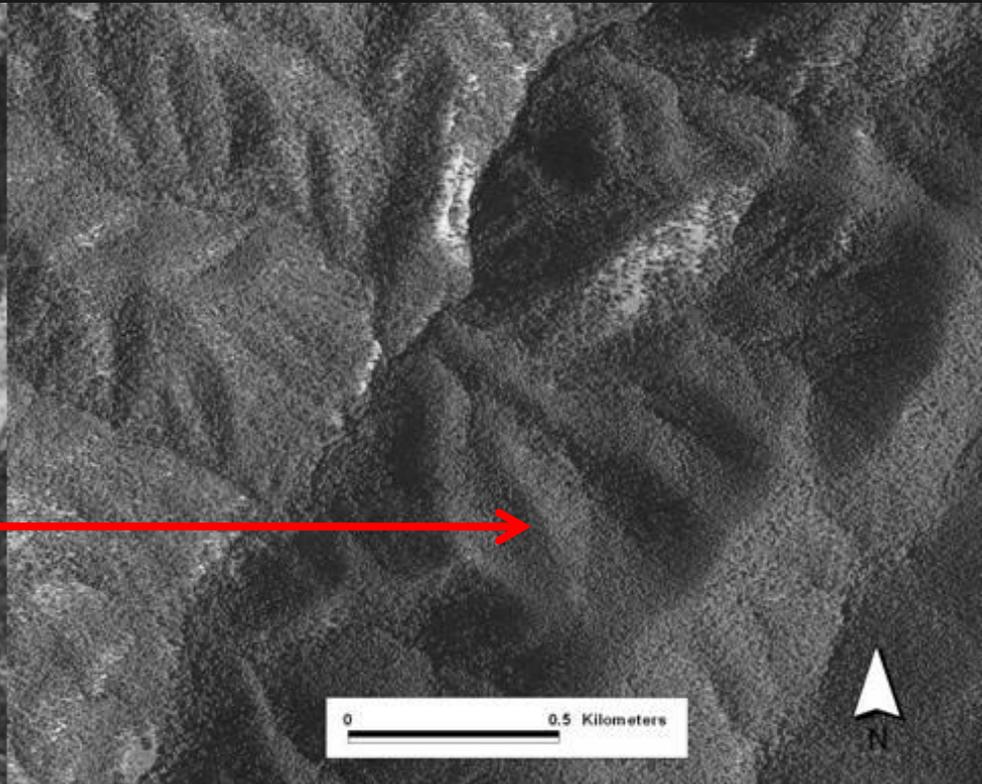
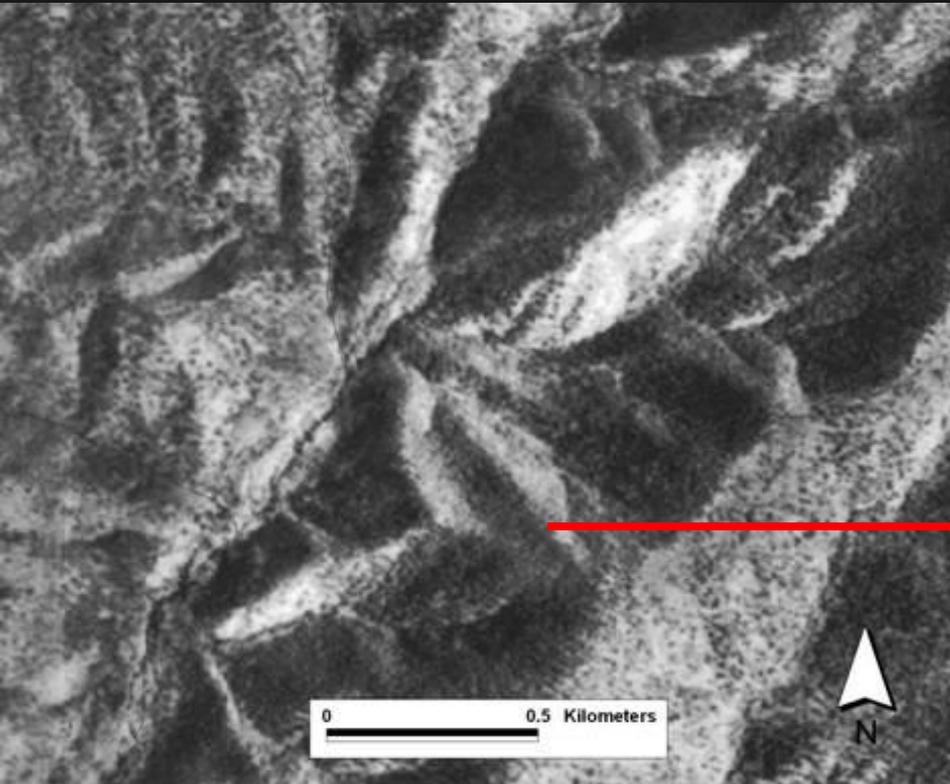
COMPOSITE
≥20% SCARRED
MIN SCARS = 2

1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

Increased forest density after fire suppression

1935

2005





Conclusions

- Low severity fire burned frequently in the Ponderosa pine forest of the Santa Fe watershed since at least the early 1300's.
- Late 19th century land use changes and 20th century fire suppression excluded fire for the last 160 yrs, increasing both forest density and the risk of a catastrophic crown fire.
- This fire history validates the assumptions on which the restoration treatments were based

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