

Growing Season Fire:  
*Some thoughts on the paradigm shift*

What is your wildland fire philosophy?

“Thinking like a Fire-dependent Ecosystem....”

# Real or Perceived Growing Season Fire Impediments

Lack of knowledge, or available information,  
on seasonal fire effects

(unrealistic) expectations for growing season  
burns based only on past dormant season burn  
experience (fuels, fire behavior, weather, and  
prescriptions)

Prescribed Fire Practitioner...

# Prescribed **Fire Effects** Practitioner...



Goals  
Values  
Vision  
Multiple  
Objectives

Prescriptions  
Weather  
Implementation

**Fire Effects**

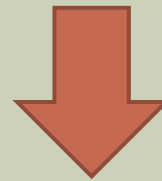


Energy released; flame front, ROS, residence time

Organic matter consumed (above and below ground), char & scorch height



+ / -



Heat output at the "correct" time



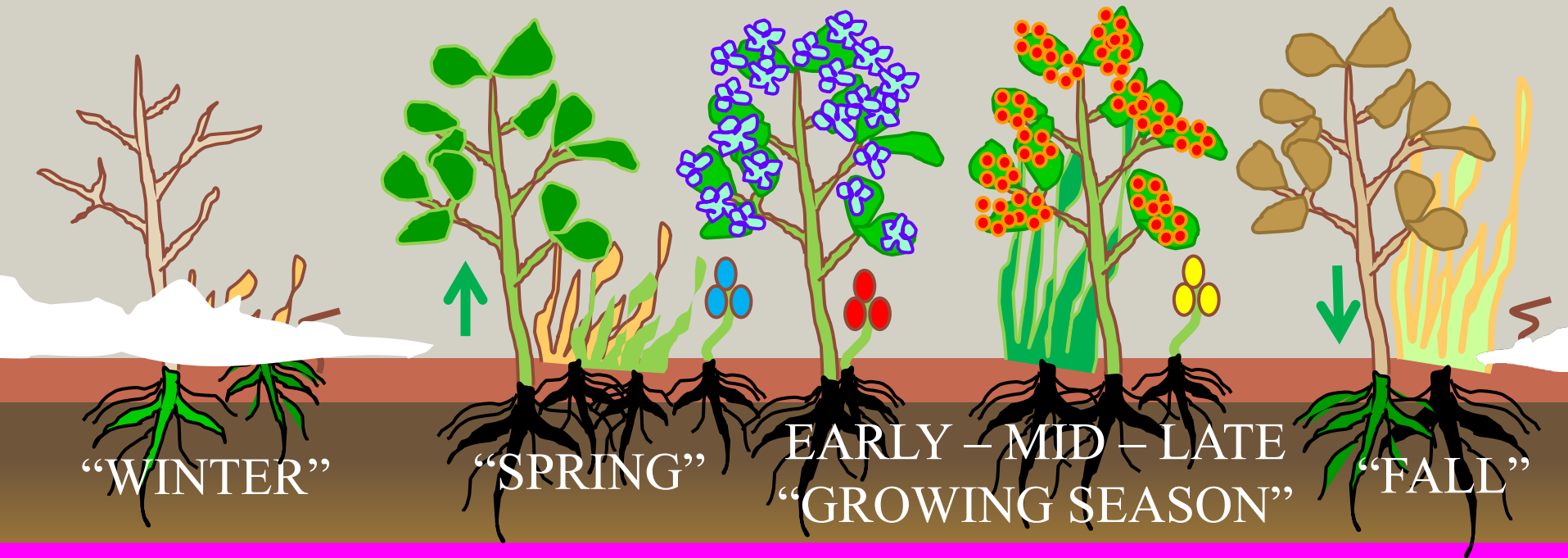
Direct and Indirect Effects on flora and fauna

You can have any combo of intensity and severity from any ignition pattern

# PHENOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGY

Woody – Coniferous & Deciduous

Herbaceous – Annuals & Perennials



Duff & Soil Moisture



Severity often increases

Dormancy

Leaf Out

Flowering/Fruiting

Senescence

Nov Dec Jan Feb

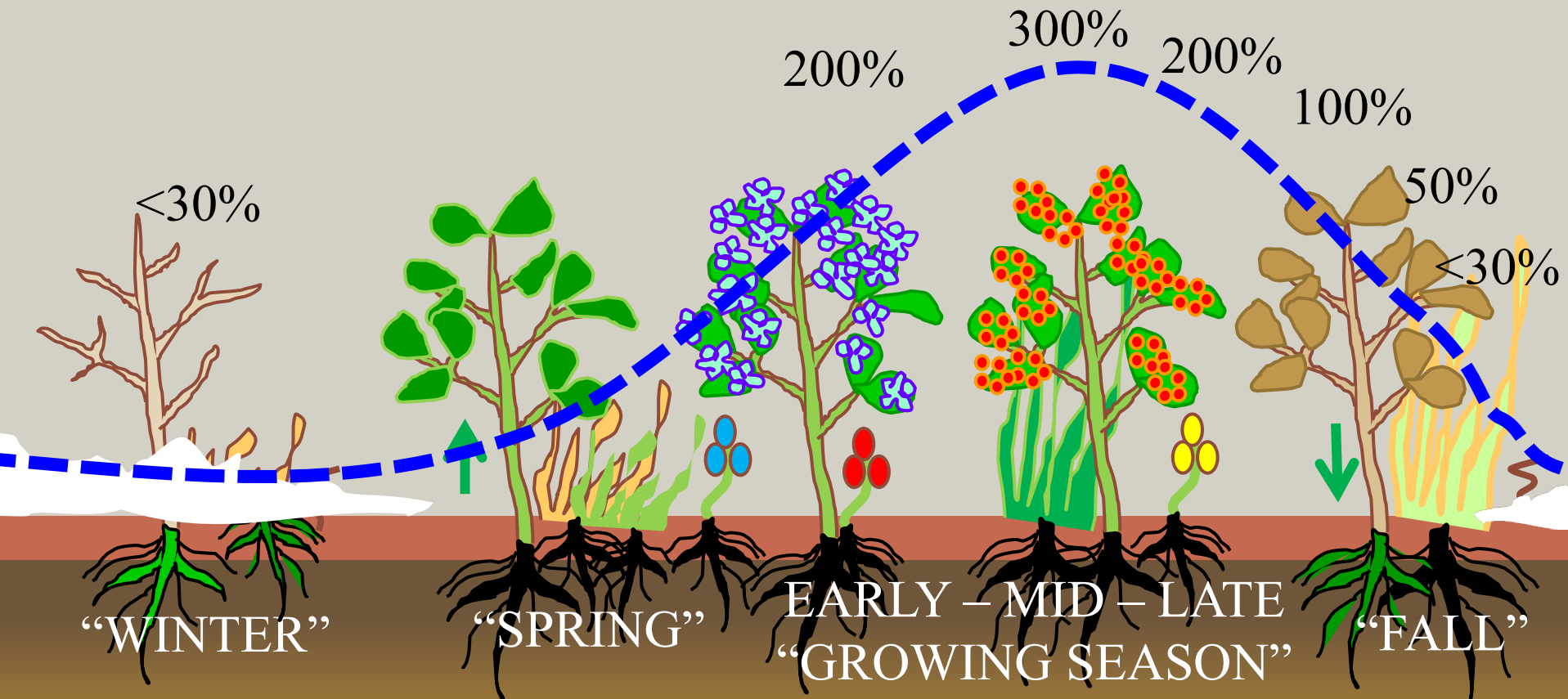
Mar Apr

May June

July Aug

Sep Oct

# LIVE FUEL MOISTURE



↑ Duff & Soil Moisture ↓

Severity often increases →

Dormancy

Leaf Out

Flowering/Fruiting

Senescence

Nov Dec Jan Feb

Mar Apr

May

June

July

Aug

Sep

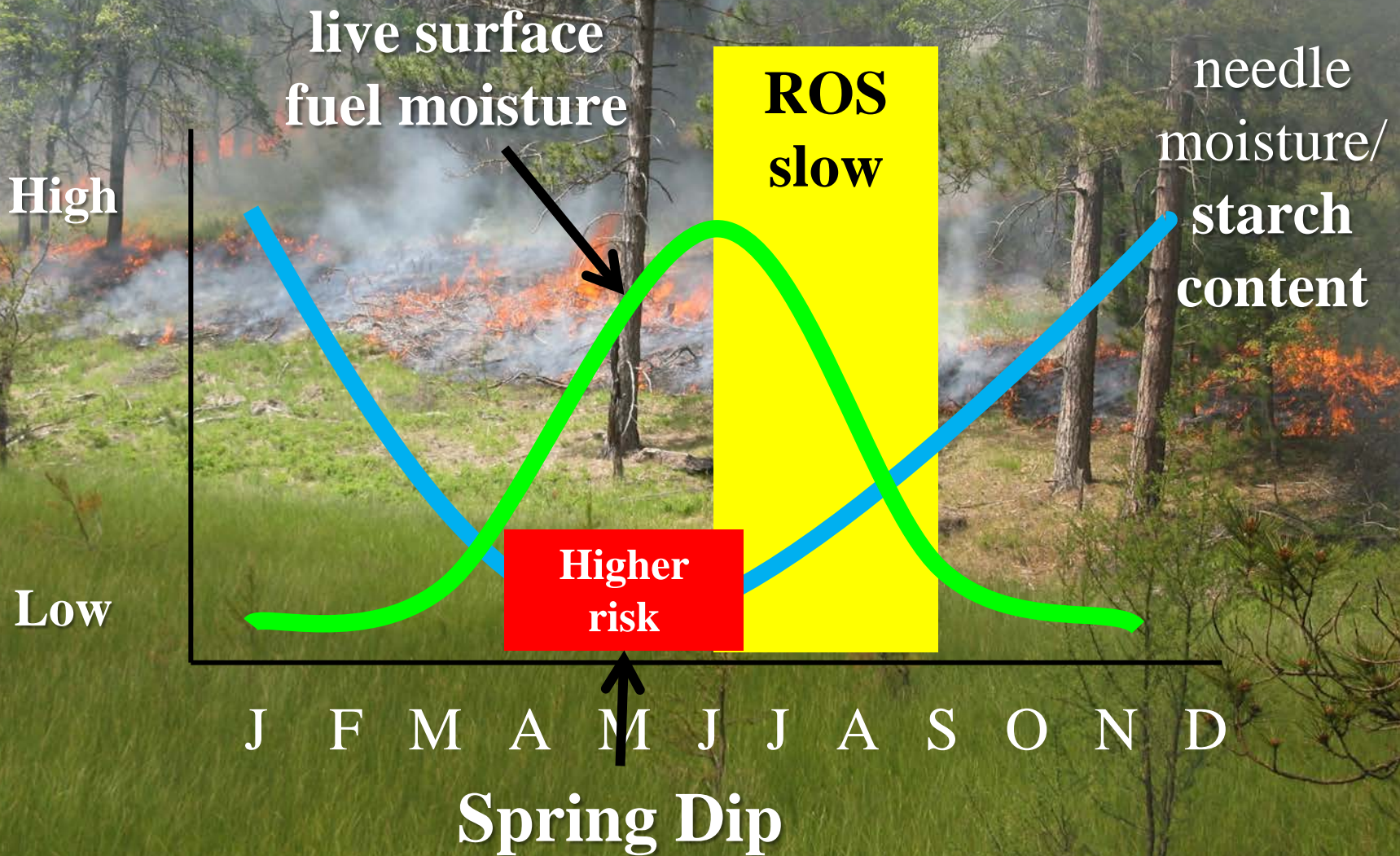
Oct







# Reducing Risk: finding some “safer” times to burn with a pine component



Competing values = restoration paralysis because we will not 'accept' actions that harm animals





OK to Burn

Apr

Mar

Feb

Jan

Dec

Nov

Oct

Jul

Aug

May

June



Son of  
a ....

What might kill  
or injure me  
today??

?

?

fire?

?

?





# Repeated Burns across multiple seasons -the Expanded Burn Window- equals

Building the (new) fire regime beyond your  
career...

- ↑ Native plant diversity
- ↑ T&E species – plant & animal
- ↓ Non-native plant & competitive species
- ↑ Resilience

