



Introduction to Prescribed Fire

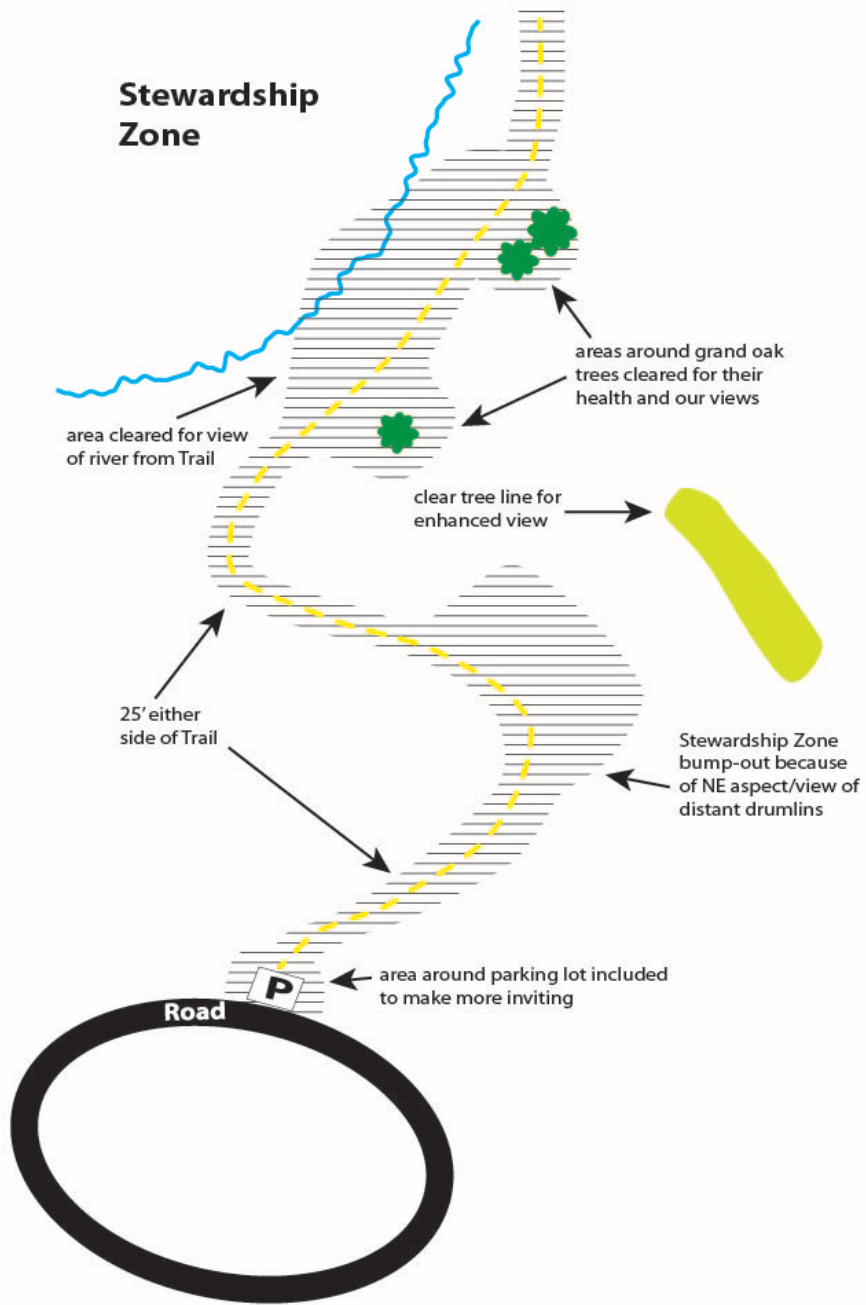
Kevin Thusius

Tom Wise

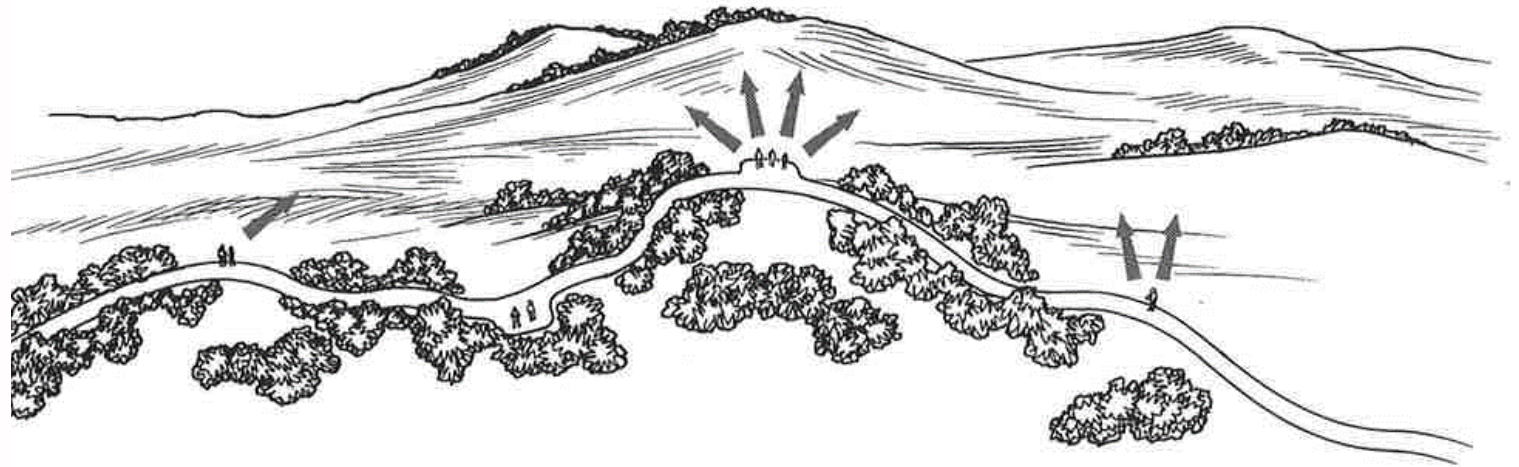
Ecological enhancement along the Ice Age Trail

- Who, what, when, where, why and how?
- Aesthetics, critters, outdoor “museums”
- Costs and benefits of ecological management. Is it worth it?
- Relating vegetative management with trail building and maintenance
- “Stewardship from the Trail outward”

Stewardship Zone



Trail Stewardship Zone



Types of prescribed fires

- Brush piles (making a good pile, times of year, *see handout*)
- Broadcast- Prairie/Savana/Woodlands
 - Fire breaks, permits, burn plan
- Propane torch for seedling removal



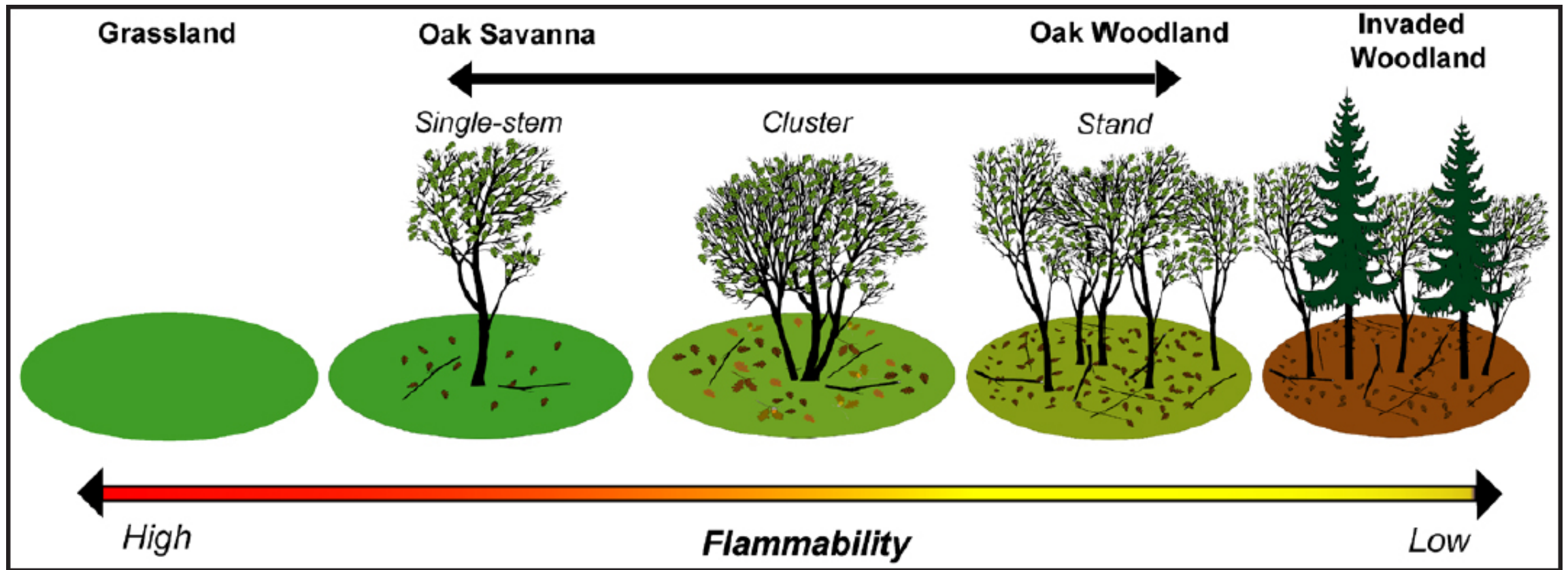
When to consider fire as a management tool

- Check historical reference; pre-settlement vegetation
- Some landscapes are/not suitable for fire
- Fire can be an efficient tool for meeting restoration goals
- Property ownership/managing authority/agreements

Reasons to use fire as management tool

- Helping get the land back to fire regime and fire-tolerant species by removing leaf litter, getting rid of invasives
- Partial alternative to herbicide
- As you use fire, fire becomes more efficient

Fire in Wisconsin Landscapes



Is fire an
option
here?



What
about
here?



Hazards of fire

- Personal injury
- Liability
- Collateral damage to vegetation
- Reputation of the organization



Alliance-sanctioned burning – see handout

- Burning requirements – striking a balance with NWCG requirements
- Burning procedures – summary in classroom ([permits](#), notification of IATA staff, etc.)
- Alliance's Insurance requirements (liability, personal injury)

Alliance-sanctioned burning (con't)

- No VIP coverage; special sign-in sheet
- Requirements for participants such as training
- PPEs/tools for fire management
 - Water tanks, pumper units, flappers, Nomex, etc.

Tools of the trade



What's next? Participation and trainings

- Who is interested in working with fire? What type(s)?
- [National Wildfire Coordinating Group \(NWCG\)](#)
- [WI Prescribed Fire Council](#)
- The Prairie Enthusiasts, The Nature Conservancy, Aldo Leopold Foundation, WDNR, Lake States and Tallgrass Prairie & Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortiums...

Field visit to Steenbock Preserve

- Alliance acquired property in 1997 from TNC
- Began restoration efforts in 2013; USFWS grants
- Removing cedar and other non-fire-tolerant species
- Ramped-up efforts in last few years; pushing toward fire regime
- Observe brush piles & effects of first broadcast burn this year