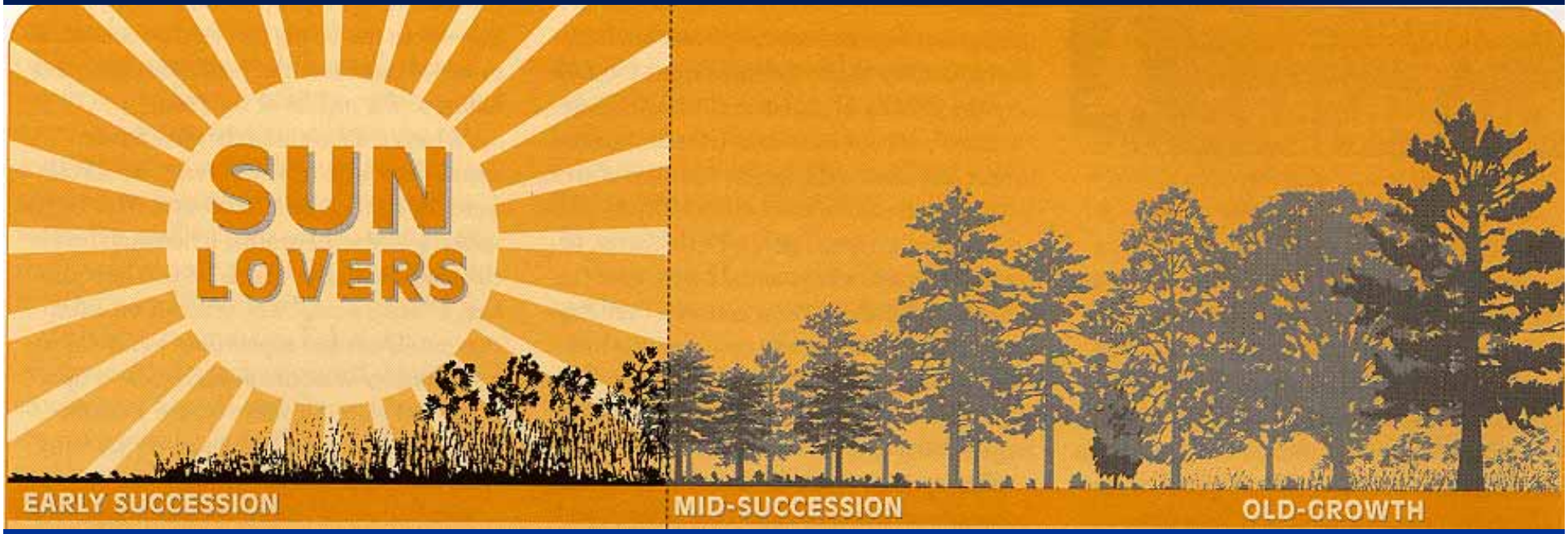
Restoration of Rare Habitats and Native Communities

Focus for Rare Habitats/Communities

- 1) Re-establish disturbances to habitats such as balds, bogs, canebreaks, etc
- 2) Correct hydrological functions on bogs, montane alluvial wetlands, and forests
- 3) Also consider, caves, rock outcrops, serpentine barrens, spruce-fir forests, open oak woodlands, other less common ecosystems

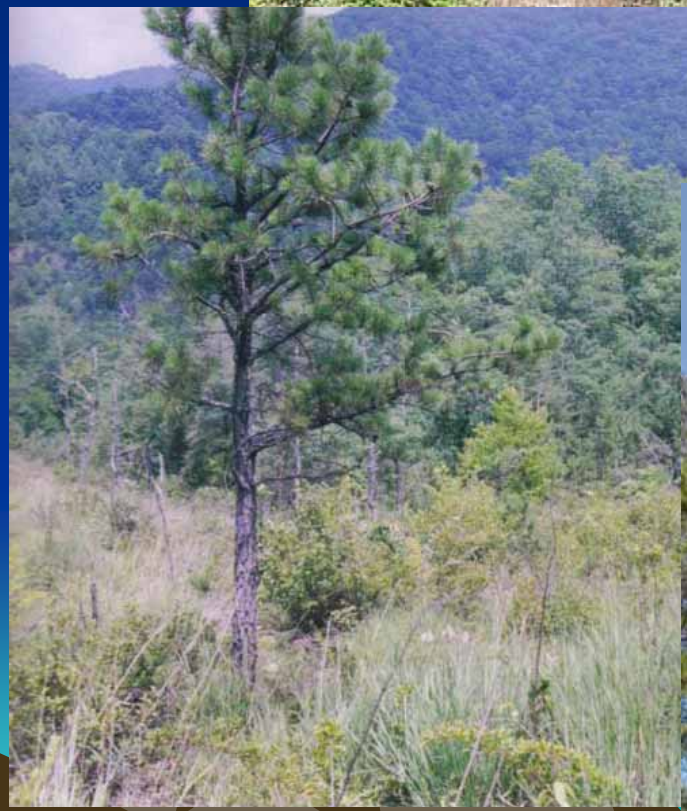

SUN
LOVERS
EARLY SUCCESSION
MID-SUCCESSION
OLD-GROWTH

Tie into restoration of diversity in single species stands

bogs

seeps

Felsic cliff



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Restoration activities - Active

- Cutting
- Mowing
- Grazing
- Burning
- Control of non-native invasives
- Herbicides
- Experimental plantings

Strategies also include

- Protection or maintenance of existing/intact rare habitats/communities
- Identify examples of rare communities where ecosystem dynamics are functioning (inventory)
- Land acquisition

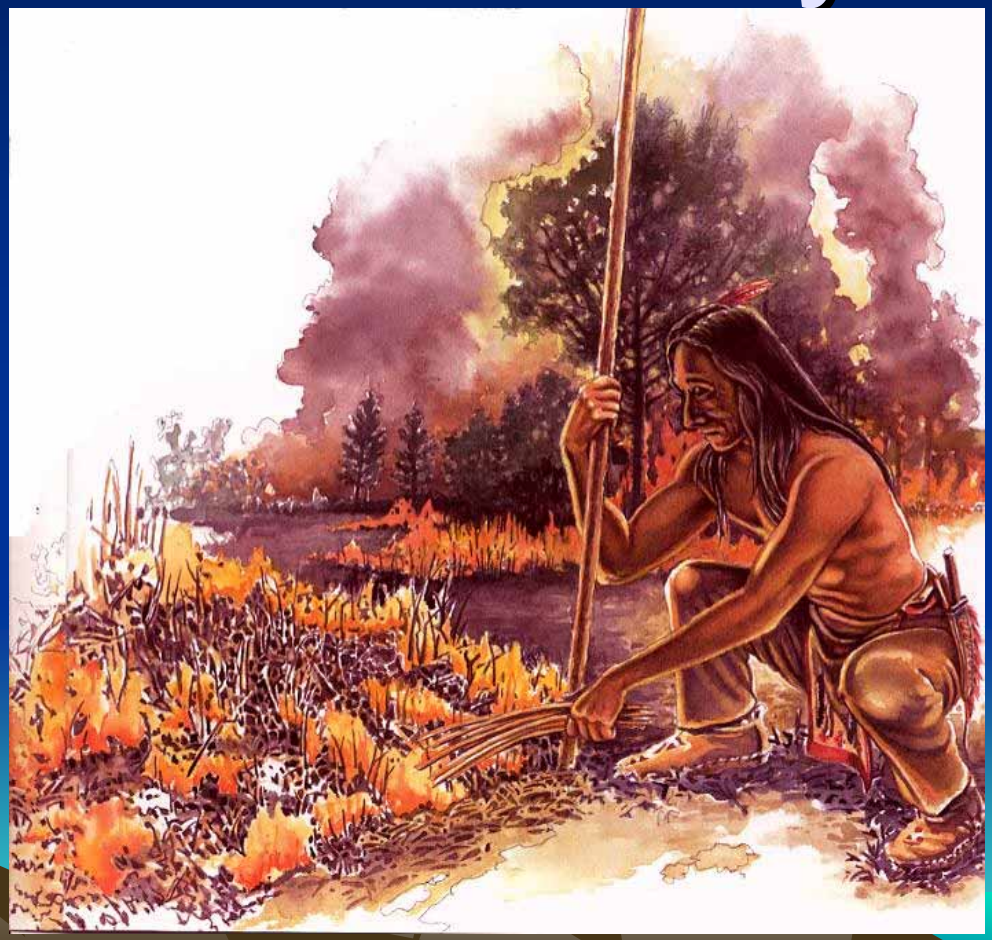
Potential Barriers

- Smoke management
- Cultural site protection
- Funding
- Surveys
- Beaver conflicts
- Remoteness of sites
- Wilderness designations
- Reluctance to do active management
- Need to do repetitive burning or other vegetation management

Next Steps

- Identify areas most at risk, then develop demonstration projects for high priority areas
- Look for ties to state wildlife action plan
- Find funding sources
- Establish priorities for invasive control
- Research – habitat needs, disturbance effects
- Importance of partners at all stages

Restoration of Fire-Dependent Ecosystems



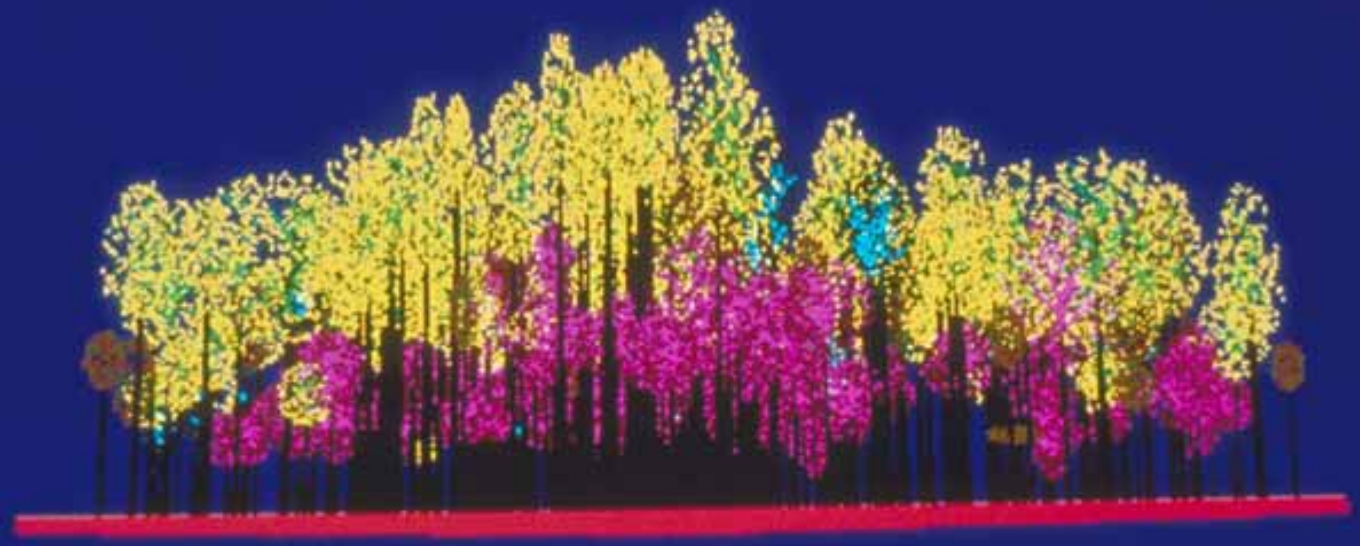
Objective

- To restore and to maintain fire-dependent ecosystems

Restore fire to

- Open areas – fields, meadows, balds, young forests
- Pitch pine/table mountain pine
- Xeric Oak systems, savannas
- Understory burns to control rhododendron/laurel
- Enhance habitat for TE species
- Control invasives/ reduce fuel loads

1. 30. 2002



The “Reddening” of America

UGA2714066

Potential Barriers

- Smoke – air quality
- Small windows of opportunity
- Drought
- Safety
- Costs
- Media/public perceptions
- Wildland/urban interface issues
- Research needs
- Commitment to burn and to burn repeatedly

Next steps

- Develop joint, cross boundary projects with partners
- More support for Fire learning network
- Public education about value of fire
- Focus on areas for pilot projects where all in agreement
- Strategic prioritization of restoration treatments
- Design projects to help answer research questions about effects