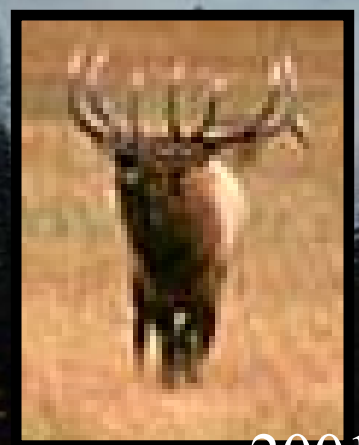
Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program
New Meadows Ranger District
Payette National Forest



2001

Prescribed Burn Program Overview

- Rapid River Overview
- RMEF Contributions and Benefits
- Rapid River Fire Ecology
- Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program
- Prescribed Fire Effects
- Current/Future Program

2001

Rapid River Overview

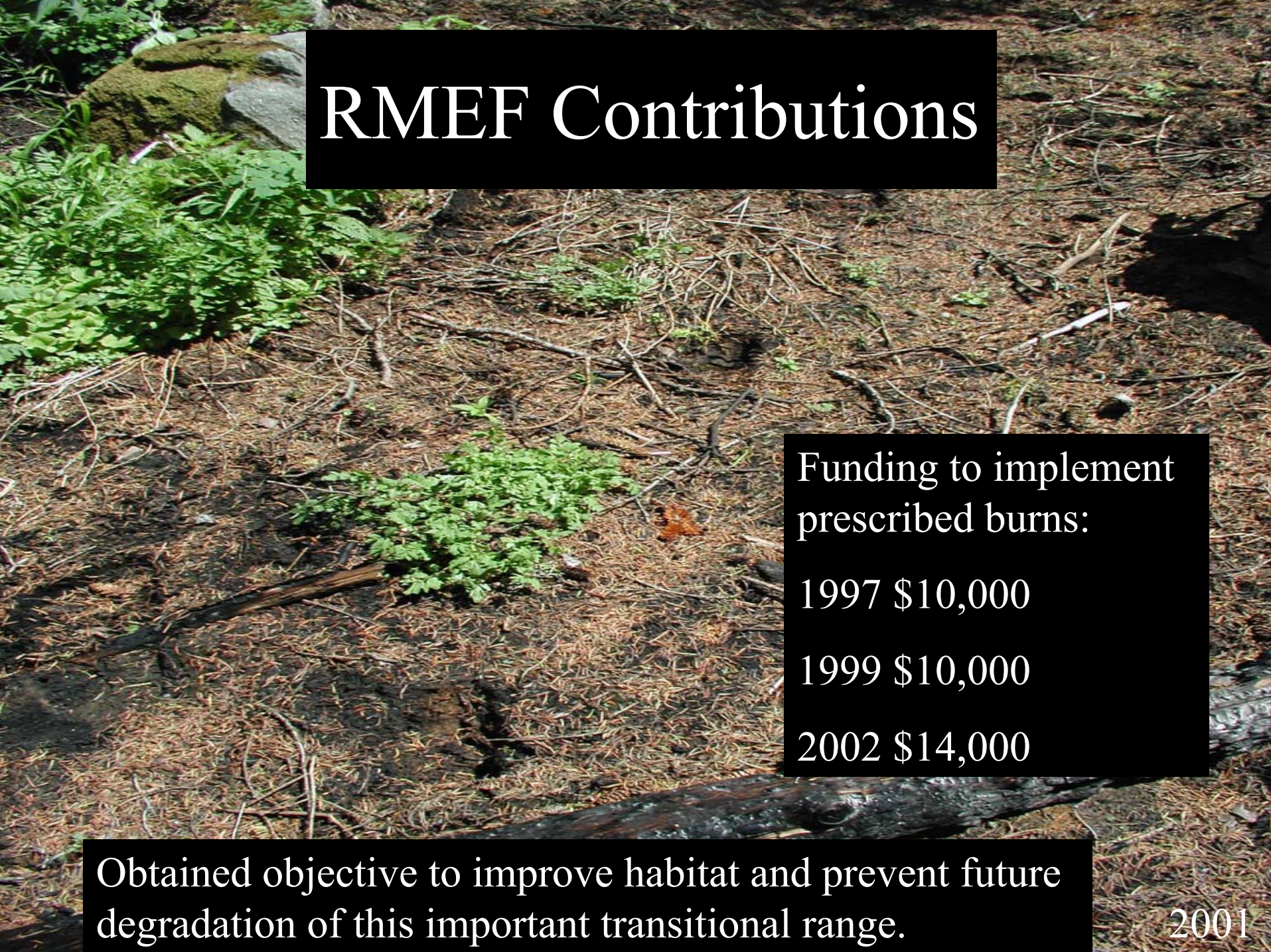
- West-Central Idaho
- 40,000 acres
- Roadless with Wild and Scenic River status
- Transitional area for elk and mule deer during Late Fall/early Winter and late Winter/early Spring periods

Rapid River Overview Continued

- Forest Types
  - Below 5800 feet:
    - South, East, and West Aspects: Broken stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, western larch and grand fir
    - North Aspects: Thick stands of Englemann spruce, lodgepole pine and western larch

Rapid River Overview Continued

- Forest Types
  - Above 5800 feet:
  - Open stands of subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, and whitebark pine



RMEF Contributions

Funding to implement prescribed burns:

1997 $10,000

1999 $10,000

2002 $14,000

Obtained objective to improve habitat and prevent future degradation of this important transitional range.

2001

Rapid River Fire Ecology

Historic Fire return interval	43 to 68 years
Current Fire return interval	87 to 111 years

This difference contributes to:

Dense thickets of grand fir and Douglas-fir regeneration

More closed stand structure

Peter Eades Photograph

Rapid River Fire Ecology

However, stand structure is still within the historic range, and will support fire without detrimental effects to water quality or other resources

But, stands are continuing to experience buildups of live and dead fuels, and consequent structure altering

Important to act now to maintain pristine habitat!

1999

Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program

PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAM

Prescribed Burn	*Acres*	*Date*
Louise Creek	200	April 16, 1984
Trail Creek	350	April 14, 1985
Lonesome Creek	700	September 24, 1990
Fry Pan Creek	600	September 19, 1993
Castle Creek	400	September 24, 1998
Castle/Hall/Hell Creeks	3400	September 2-4, 1999
Fry Pan Creek	2017	October 6-7, 2001
FryPan/Cabin/N.StarCk	2000	September 14-15, 2002

Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program

- Rapid River (Aerially Ignited Prescribed Fire)
  - Difficult access and remote location
  - Interesting political issues, specifically regarding smoke impacts to local communities
  - Cultural Resource Sites within burn area:
    - Native American Gravesite
    - Lookout
  - Approximate Cost Per Acre in 2001: $55.00

2001

Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program

Primarily Ignited by Helicopter:

- Helitorch
- Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD)

2002

Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program

Typical Resources Used:

(Approximately 90 people)

- **2 Type 3 helicopters**
- **1 Type 2 helicopter**
- **30 helitack**
- **2 Type 1 crews**
- **1 short crew (12)**
- **1 engine**
- **Miscellaneous overhead**

2002

Rapid River Prescribed Burn Program

- Burn prior to a predicted precipitation event
- Generally takes 2-3 days to ignite
- Fire can burn for days, weeks, months following ignition
- Variable fire effects

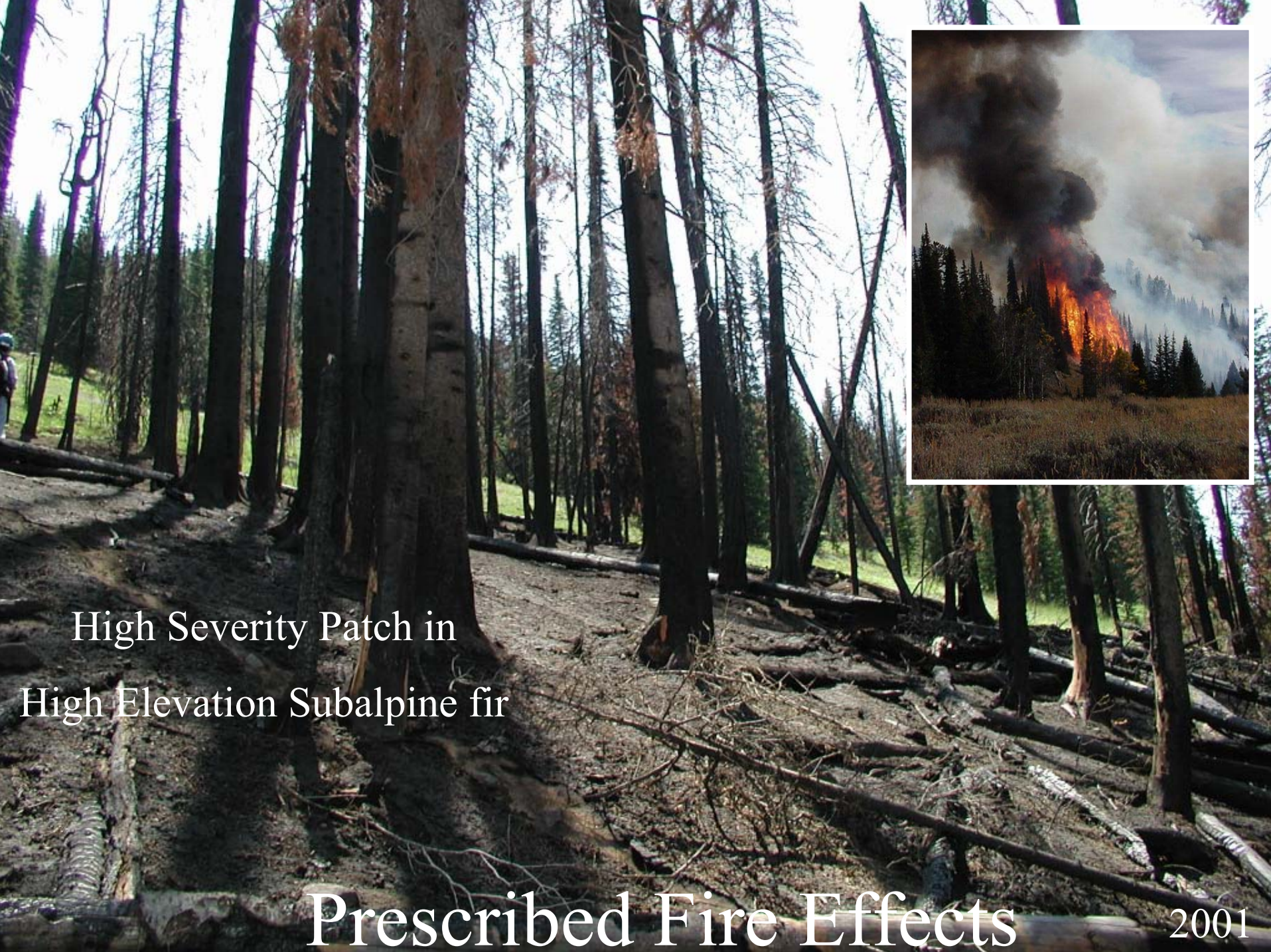
1998

Prescribed Fire Effects

Dependent on:

- Fuel Moisture
- Elevation/Forest Type
- Time Before Precipitation Event Occurs After Ignition

2002



High Severity Patch in

High Elevation Subalpine fir

Prescribed Fire Effects

2001

Prescribed Fire Effects

Mixed Severity Patch in

Mid-Elevation Mixed Conifer

2001

Prescribed Fire Effects

High/Mixed Severity Patch in

Mid-Elevation Mixed Conifer

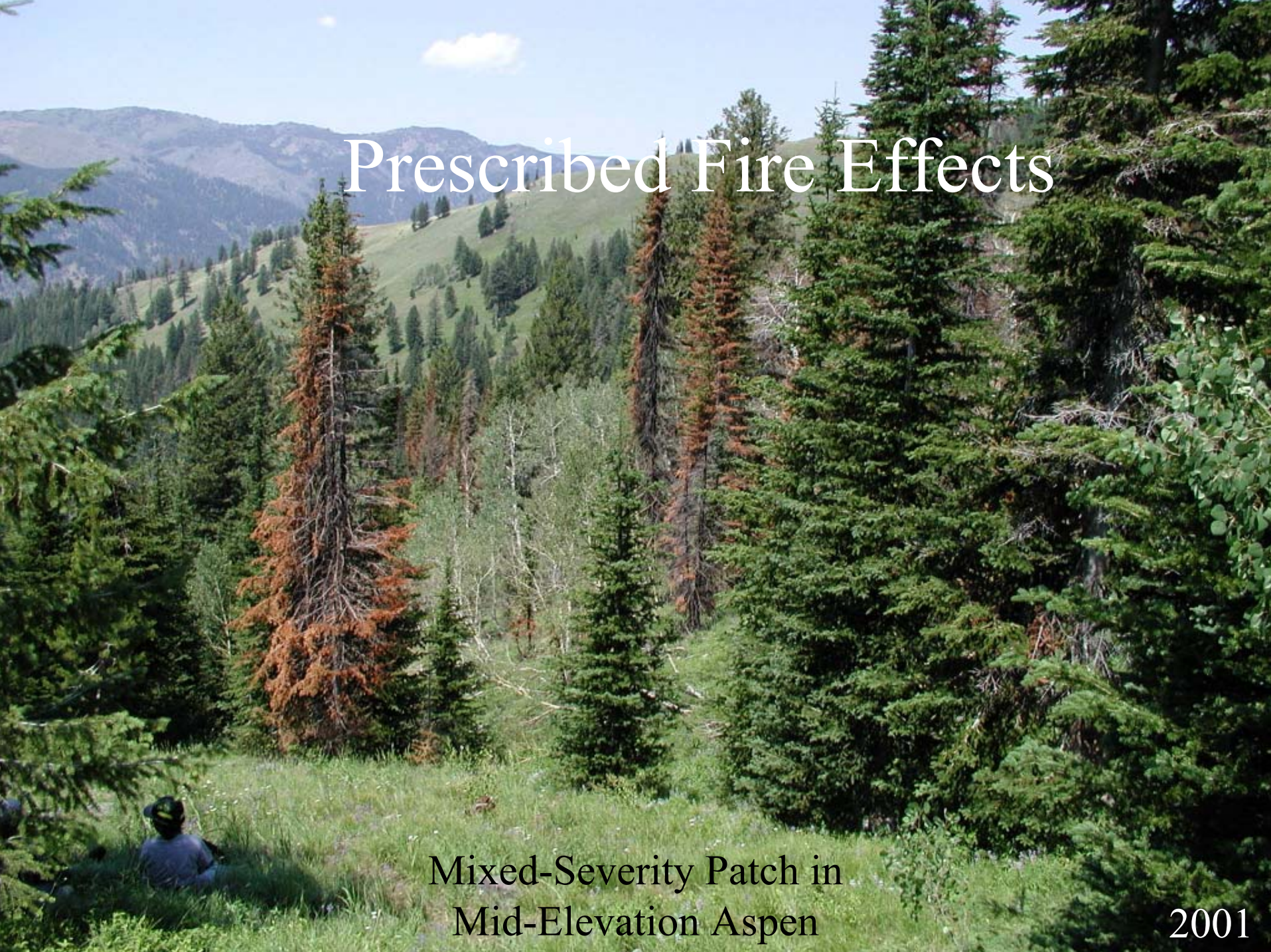
1999

Prescribed Fire Effects

Low Severity Patch in Low/Mid-Elevation Douglas-fir/Ponderosa Pine

2001

Prescribed Fire Effects



Mixed-Severity Patch in
Mid-Elevation Aspen

2001

Prescribed Fire Effects

Landscape Mosaic from High to Low Elevations

Current Program

Re-visit the NEPA process

- Environmental Assessment in FY 2003
- Continue Burning?


Thank you for your generous support.
New Meadows Ranger District
Payette National Forest
2002


Rapid River 2001 Ignition Sequence
Slide 1
2001

Rapid River 2001 Ignition Sequence
Slide 2


Rapid River 2001 Ignition Sequence
Slide 3
2001


Rapid River 2001 Ignition Sequence
Slide 4
2001