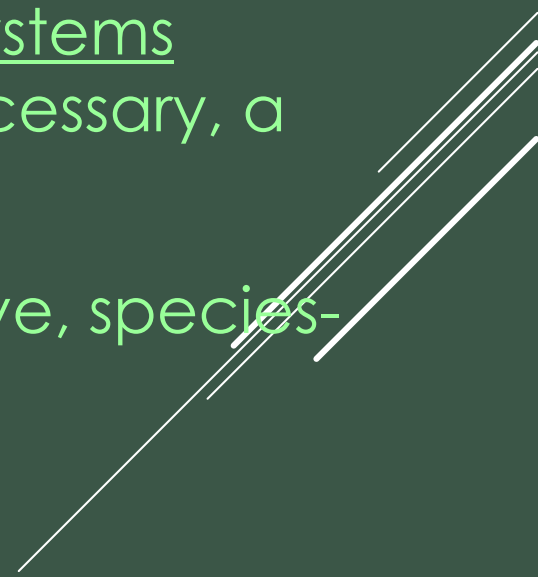


CONNECTIVITY PLANNING UNDER THE 2012 PLANNING RULE



BACKGROUND

PLANNING UNDER THE 2012 PLANNING RULE

- ▶ Goal: Incorporate connectivity in Plan development
 - ▶ 2012 Planning Rule directs NFs to consider connectivity
 - ▶ Connectivity is scale specific – fine, mid, landscape, broad
 - ▶ Connectivity is considered through a systems approach (coarse filter) and, when necessary, a species approach (fine filter)
 - ▶ The systems approach is holistic, inclusive, species-neutral – based on system departure
- 

DEPARTURE – COARSE FILTER

FINE SCALE

Connectivity is inferred by departure of ecological characteristics – such as tree density within one seral state of an ERU (one site or setting)

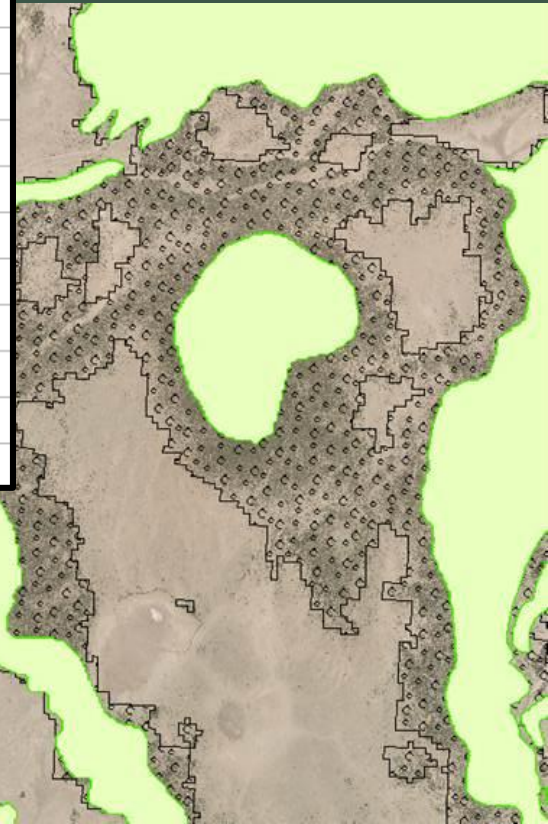


DEPARTURE – COARSE FILTER

MID SCALE

Connectivity inferred by patch size departure – all characteristic seral states of an ERU

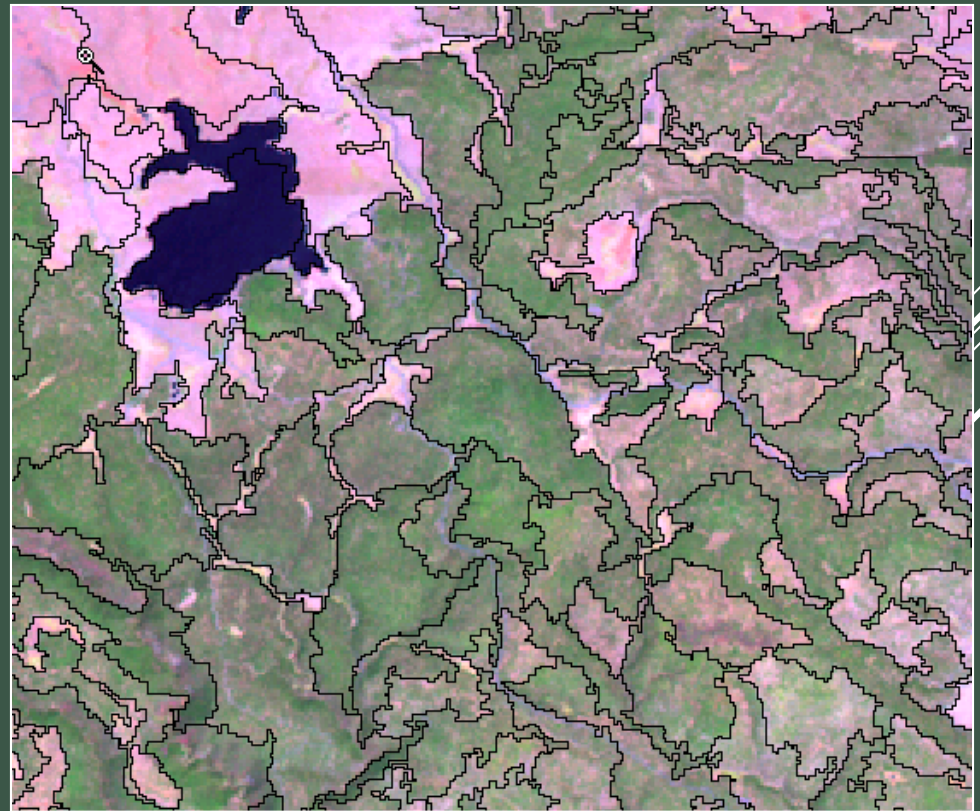
ERU	REFERENCE CONDITION		CURRENT CONDITION	DEPARTURE	
	LWR	UPR		%	CLASS
Sagebrush	152	407	152	0%	low
Montane / Subalpine Grassland	94	122	53	44%	moderate
Colorado Plateau / Great Basin Grassland	295	513	233	21%	low
Juniper Grass	0.07	1	16	97%	high
PJ Grass	0.07	1	15	93%	high
PJ Sagebrush	50	200	16	69%	high
PJ Woodland	50	400	29	41%	moderate
Ponderosa Pine Forest	0.02	1	72	99%	high
Mixed Conifer - Frequent Fire	0.02	50	247	80%	high
Mixed Conifer w/ Aspen	100	400	57	43%	moderate
Spruce-Fir Forest	200	1,000	1,017	2%	low



DEPARTURE – COARSE FILTER

LANDSCAPE SCALE

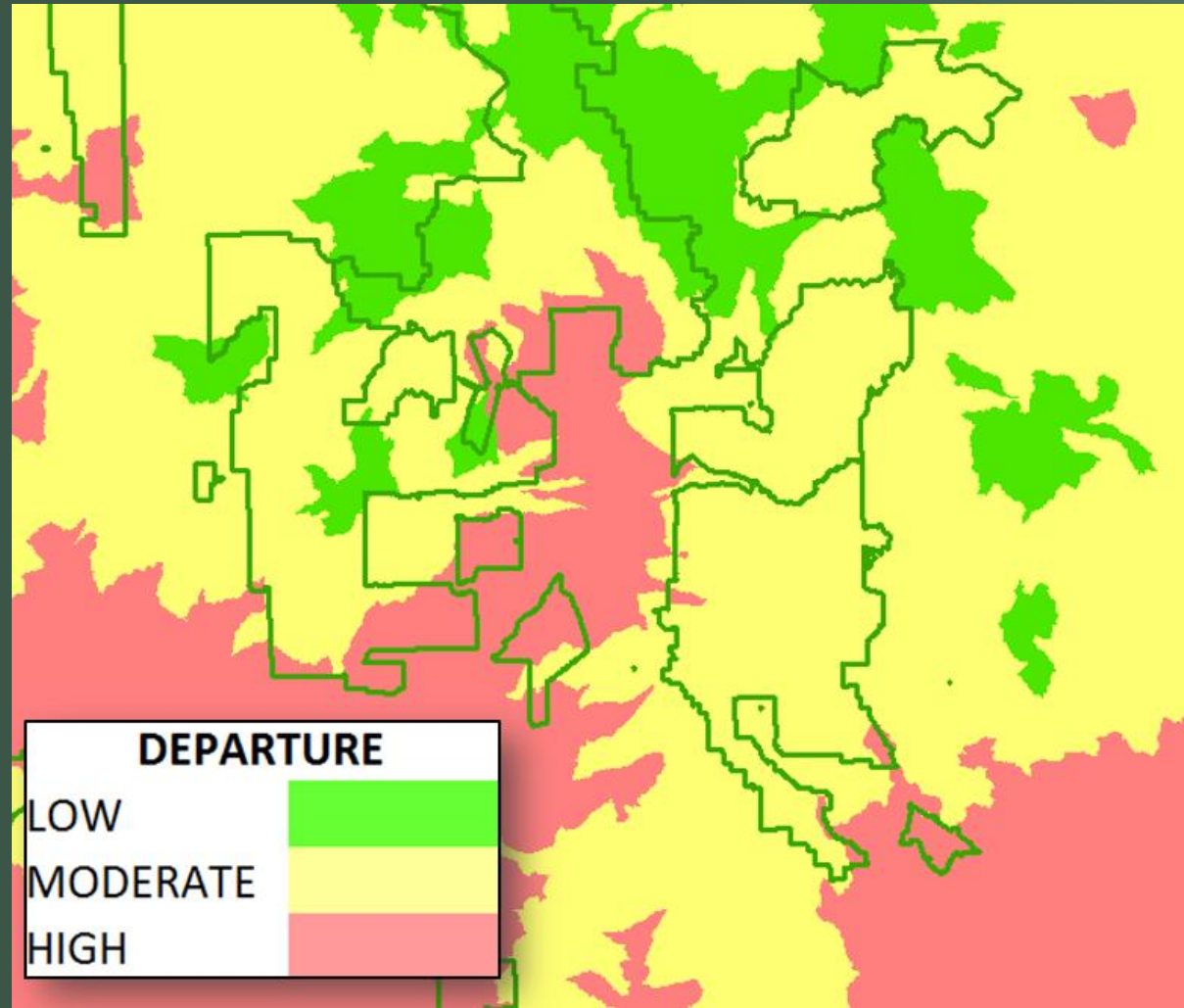
Connectivity is inferred by contiguity of all characteristic seral states across a landscape, such as 5th-level HUCs, regardless of ERU



DEPARTURE – COARSE FILTER


BROAD SCALE

Connectivity is inferred by the departure of landscape units in proximity to one another



CONNECTIVITY ANALYSIS

AVAILABLE DATA

- ▶ Ecosystem mapping – Ecological Response Units, all lands, all major vegetation types, 40+ classes, 1:24,000
 - ▶ Current vegetation mapping – All lands, 1:100,000, four themes...
 - Dominance type
 - Size class (tree types)
 - Canopy cover class (tree and shrub types)
 - Storiedness (tree types)
- 

SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

Connectivity for species is a function of system departure and human influences

A system that is in low departure is approaching historical connectivity; a departed system has uncharacteristic states that may affect connectivity for a species.

Human structures, development, and type conversions may be a species issue regardless of departure.

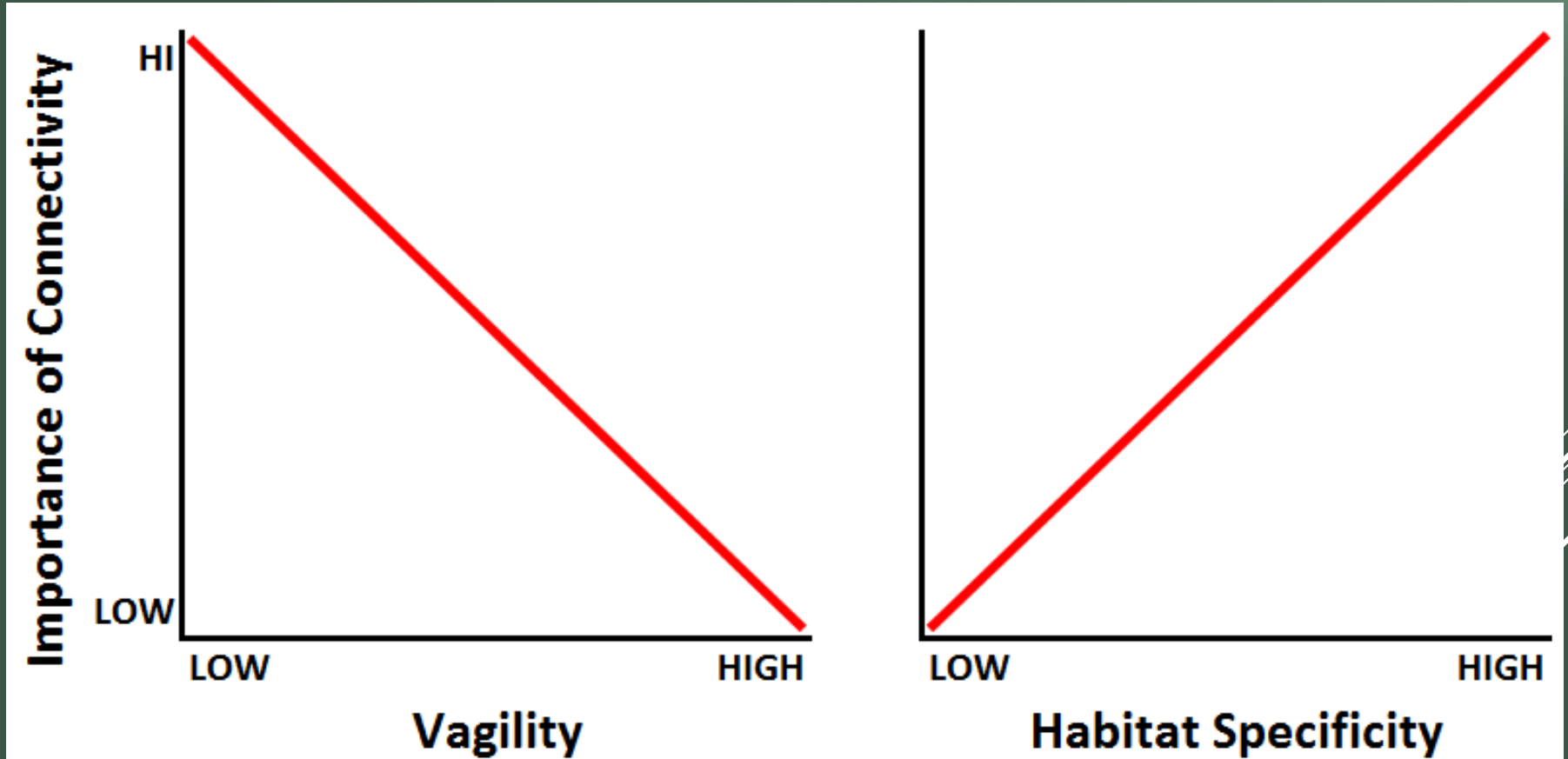


SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

Species which have low vagility (dispersal ability) and exist in a narrow range of ecological conditions are more affected by system departure in regards to connectivity.



SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS



SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

EXTENT OF SYSTEM

How broadly distributed a system is affects connectivity.

Species associated with more broadly distributed systems are more affected (connectivity-wise) by system departure than species associated with restricted systems.

Examples: Ponderosa pine vs. Alpine tundra

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

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SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

HUMAN FACTORS

Human structures and developments affect connectivity for species.

These effects occur regardless of system departure.

These effects are both local and species specific.



SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS

OTHER FACTORS

When considering connectivity, don't focus on connectivity for its own sake;

Connecting uncharacteristic system states accomplishes little for any species; restoration treatments in uncharacteristic states are a better use of resources;

Connectivity should be one of many considerations in designing and prioritizing restoration.



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