

Targeted Grazing to Manage Annual Grasses and Wildland Fuels



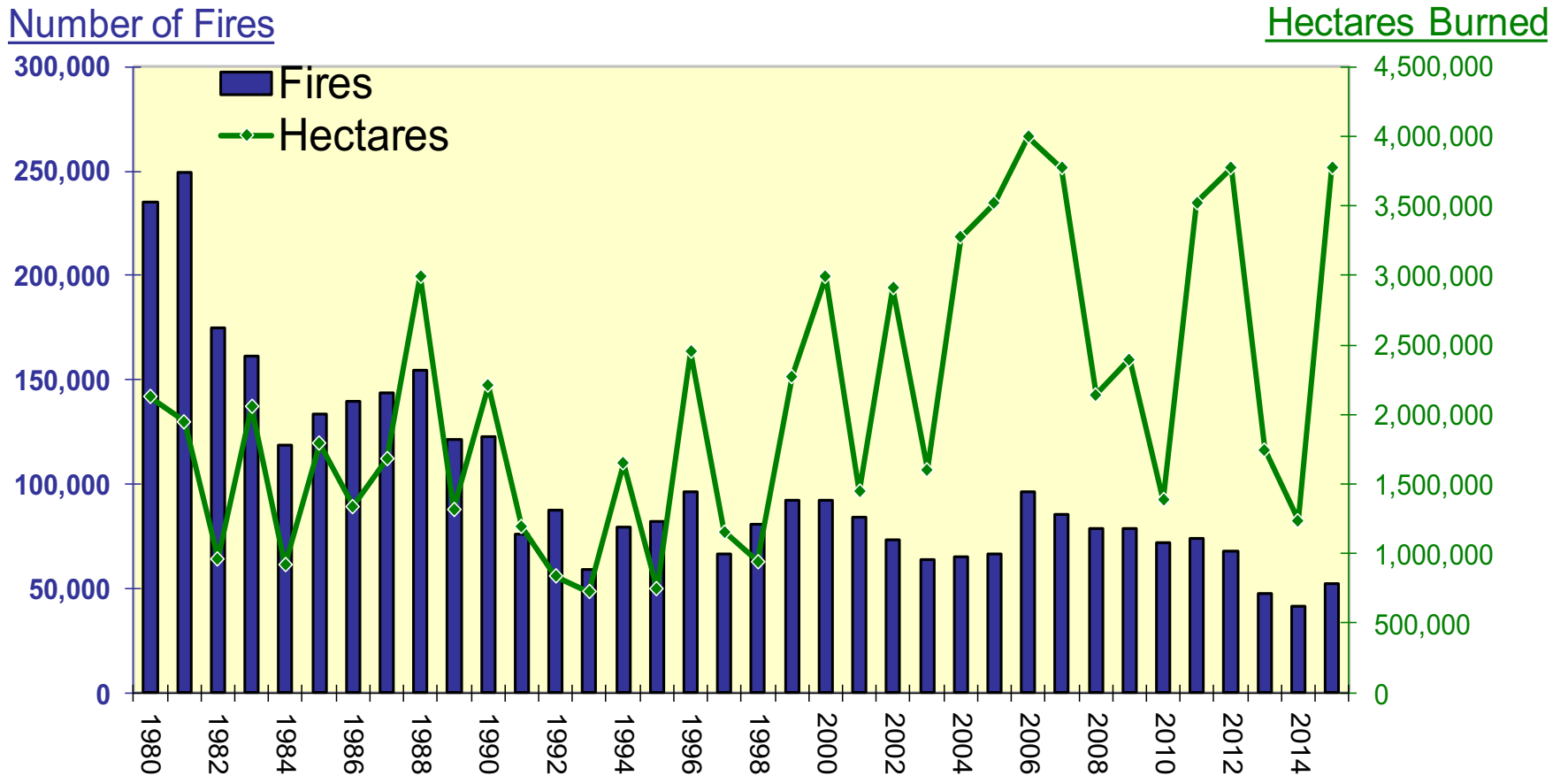
Karen Launchbaugh

University of Idaho

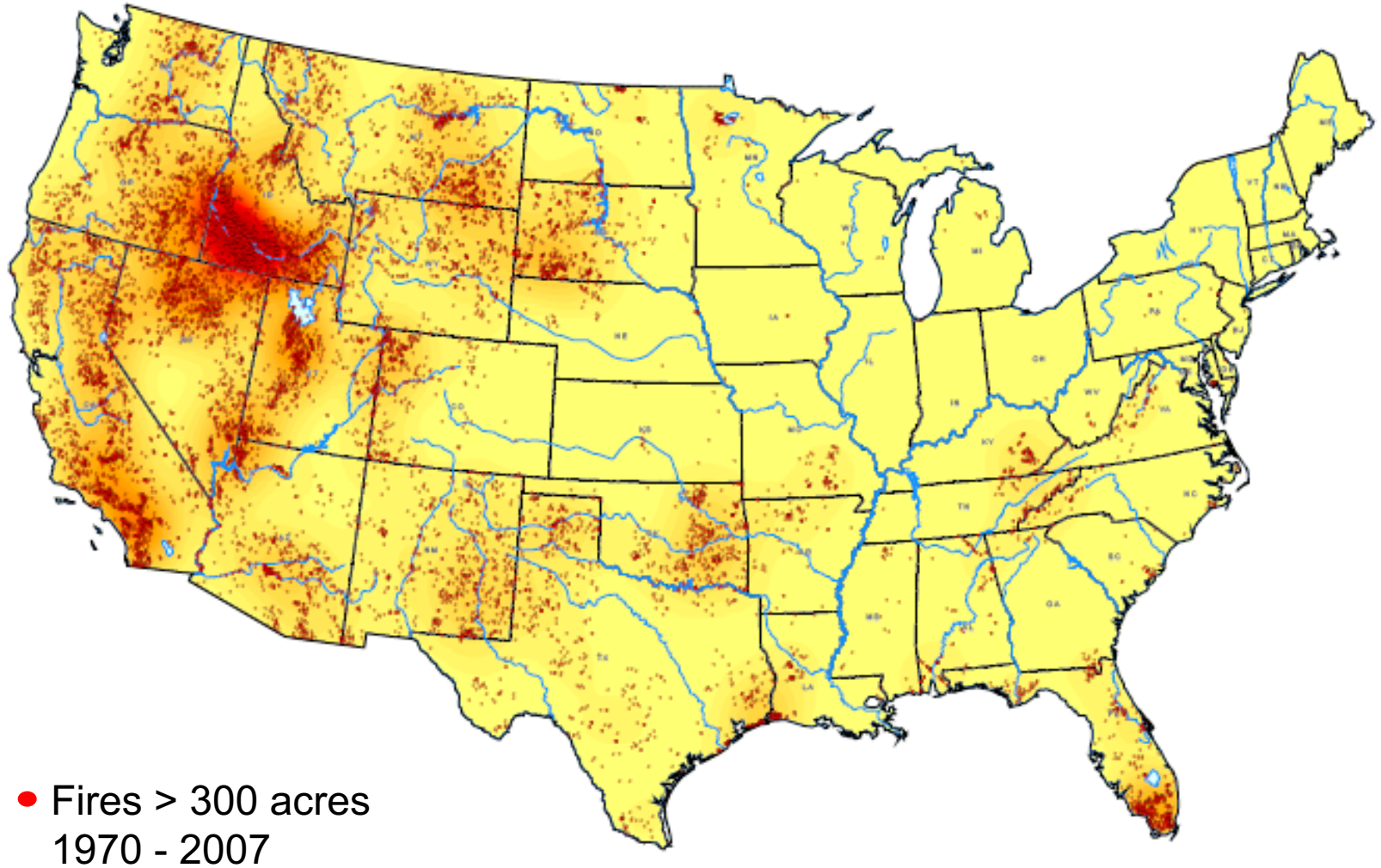
Rangeland Center

Historic Patterns

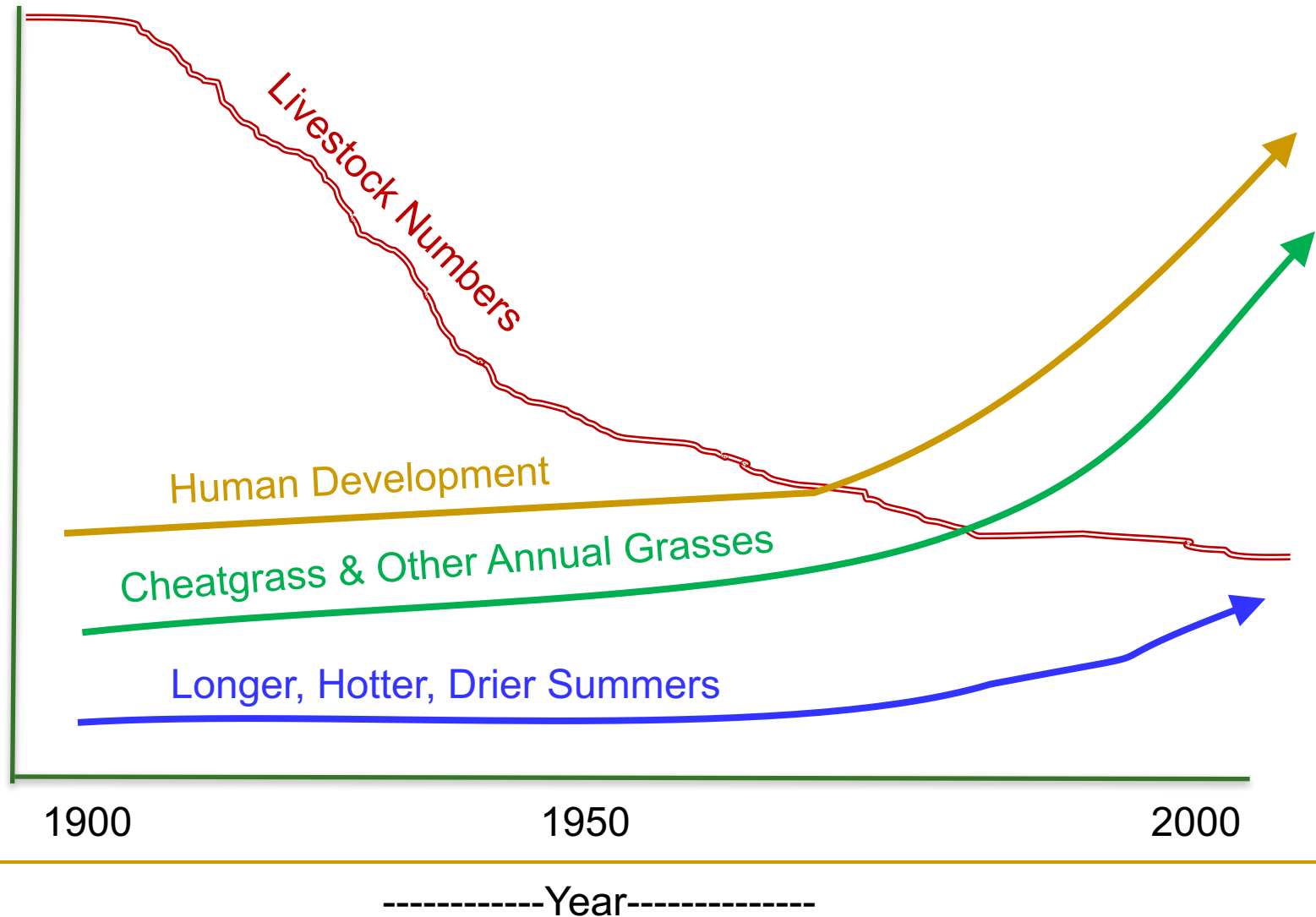
Total Wildland Fires, 1980-2015



Historic Patterns



Historic Patterns



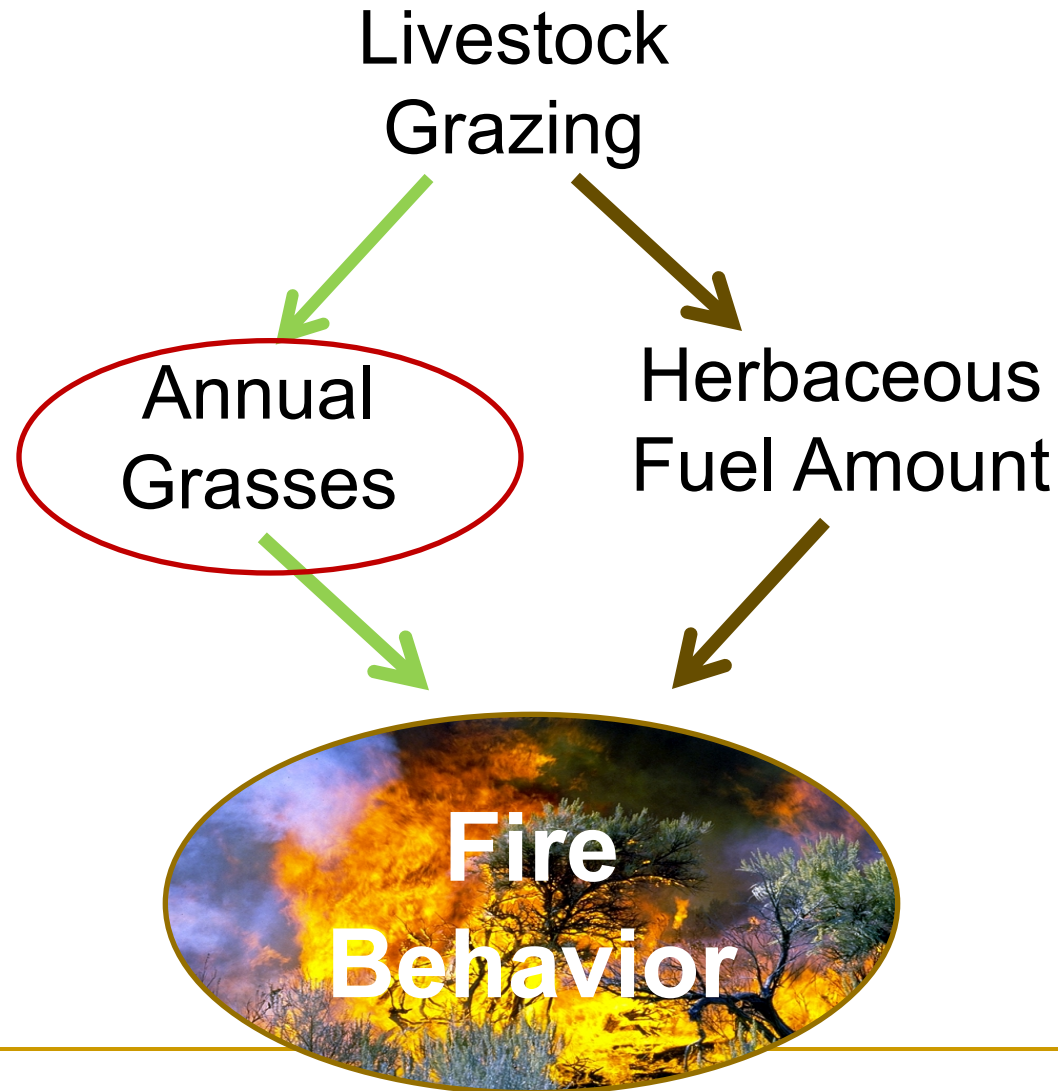
Grazing Affects Wildland Fuel & Fire

- ❑ Perimeter or Extent
- ❑ Patchiness
- ❑ Intensity

- ❑ Flame Length
- ❑ Rate of Spread



Grazing In Sagebrush Steppe

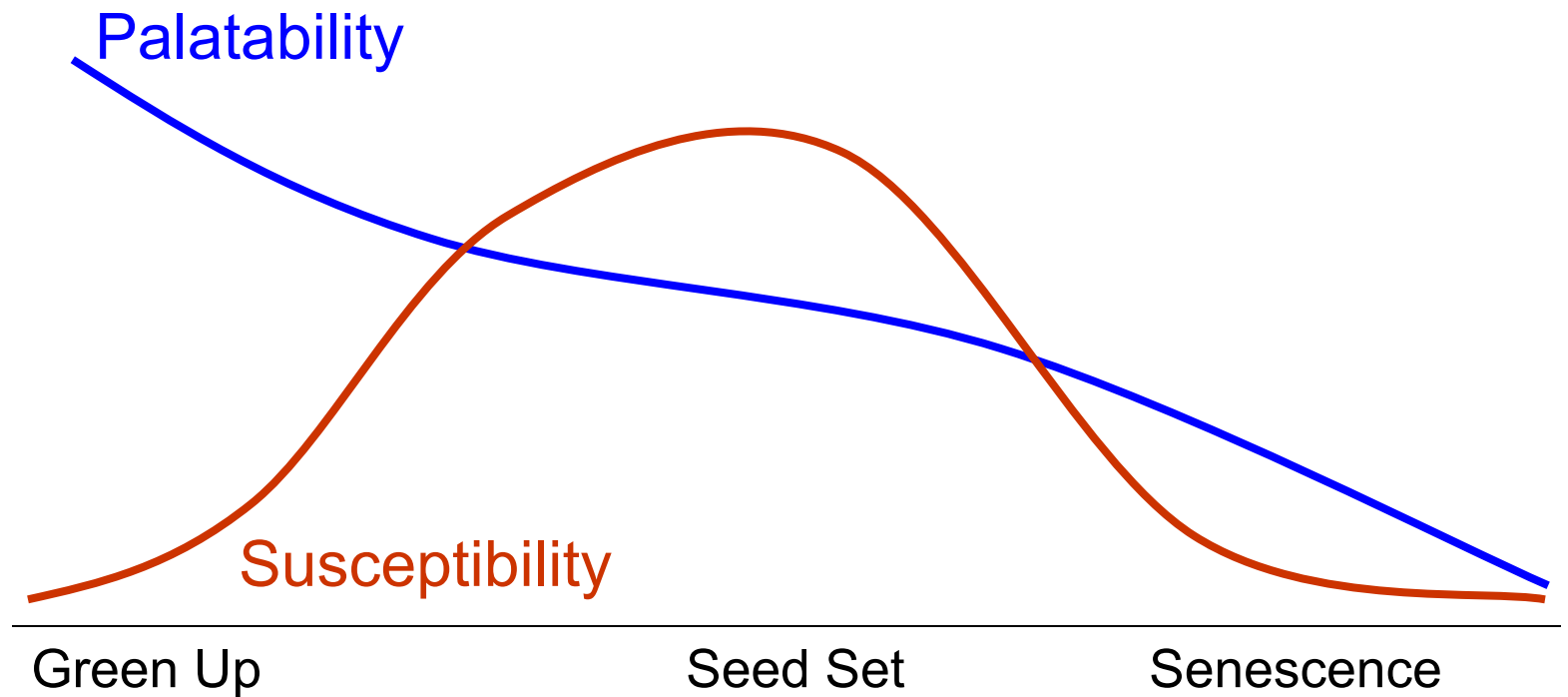


Annual Grasses

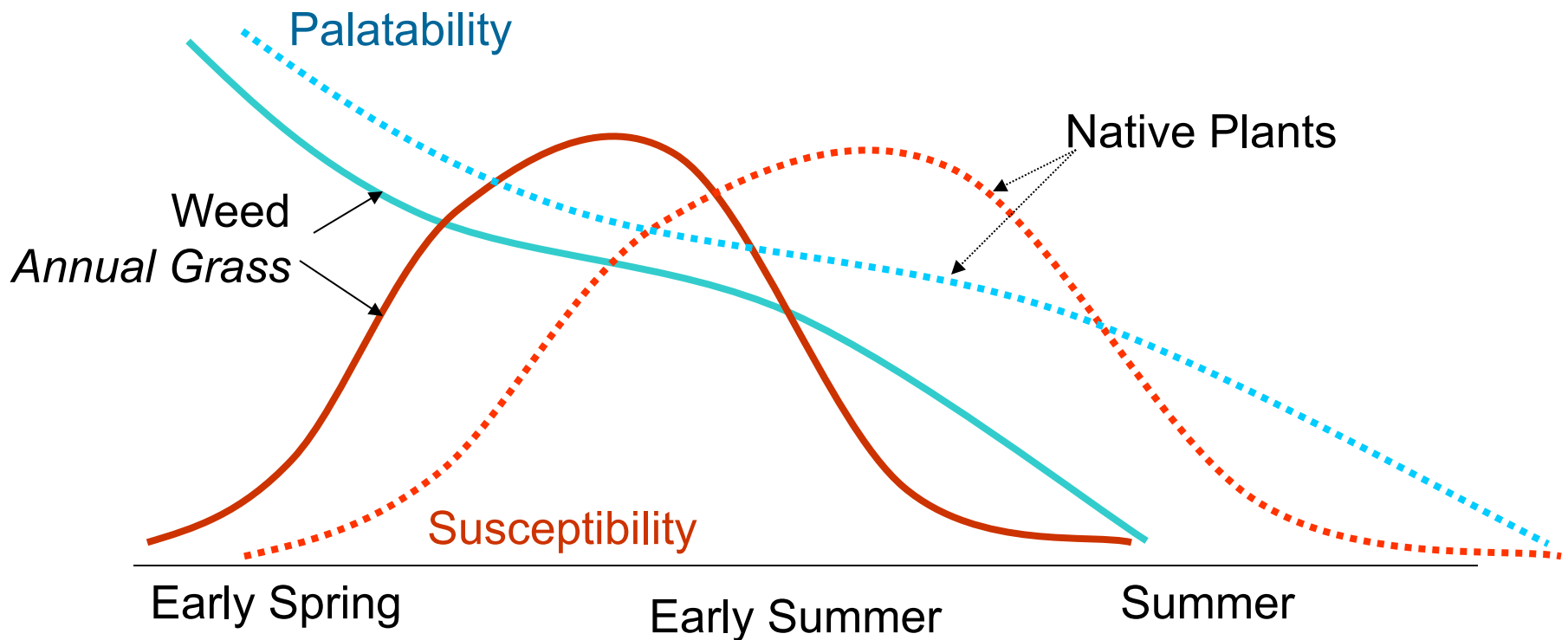
- Introduced in late 1800's
 - ❑ Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)
 - ❑ Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)
 - ❑ Red Brome (*Bromus rubens*)
- Fine textured & early maturing
 - ❑ Highly flammable
 - ❑ Increase ignition risk
- Ecosystem effects
 - ❑ Extend fire year
 - ❑ Decrease fire return interval



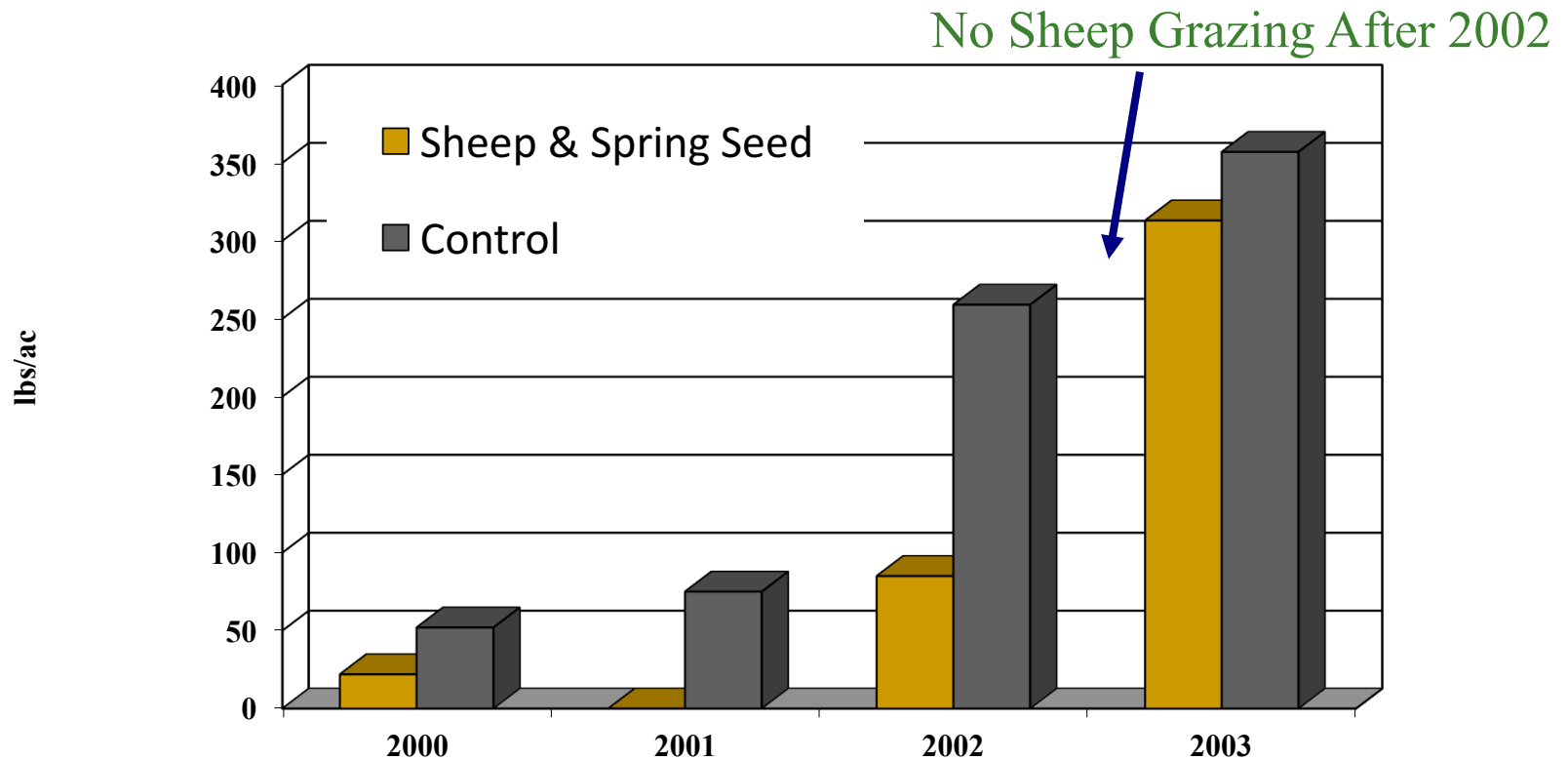
Timing Is the Key



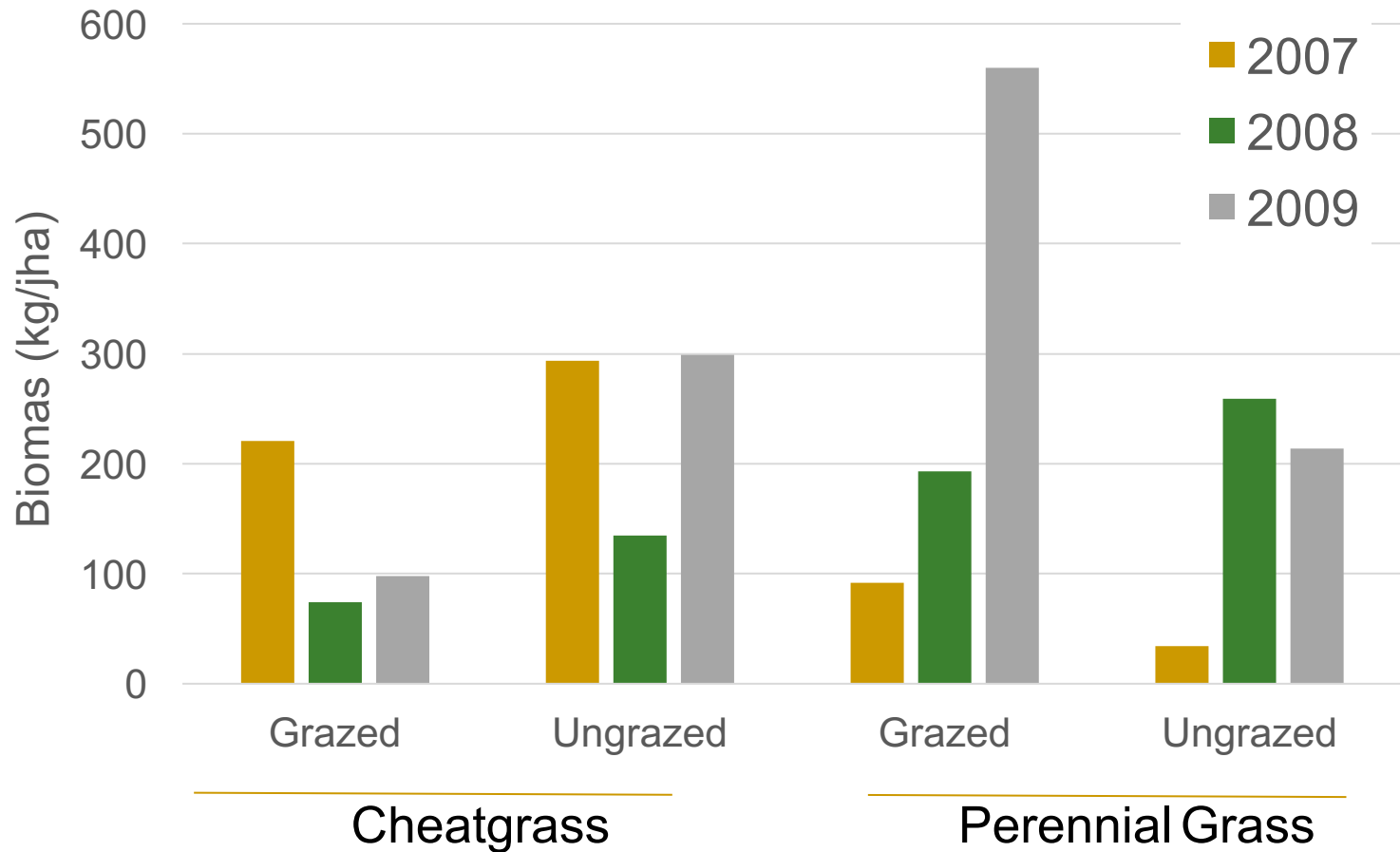
Timing Is the Key



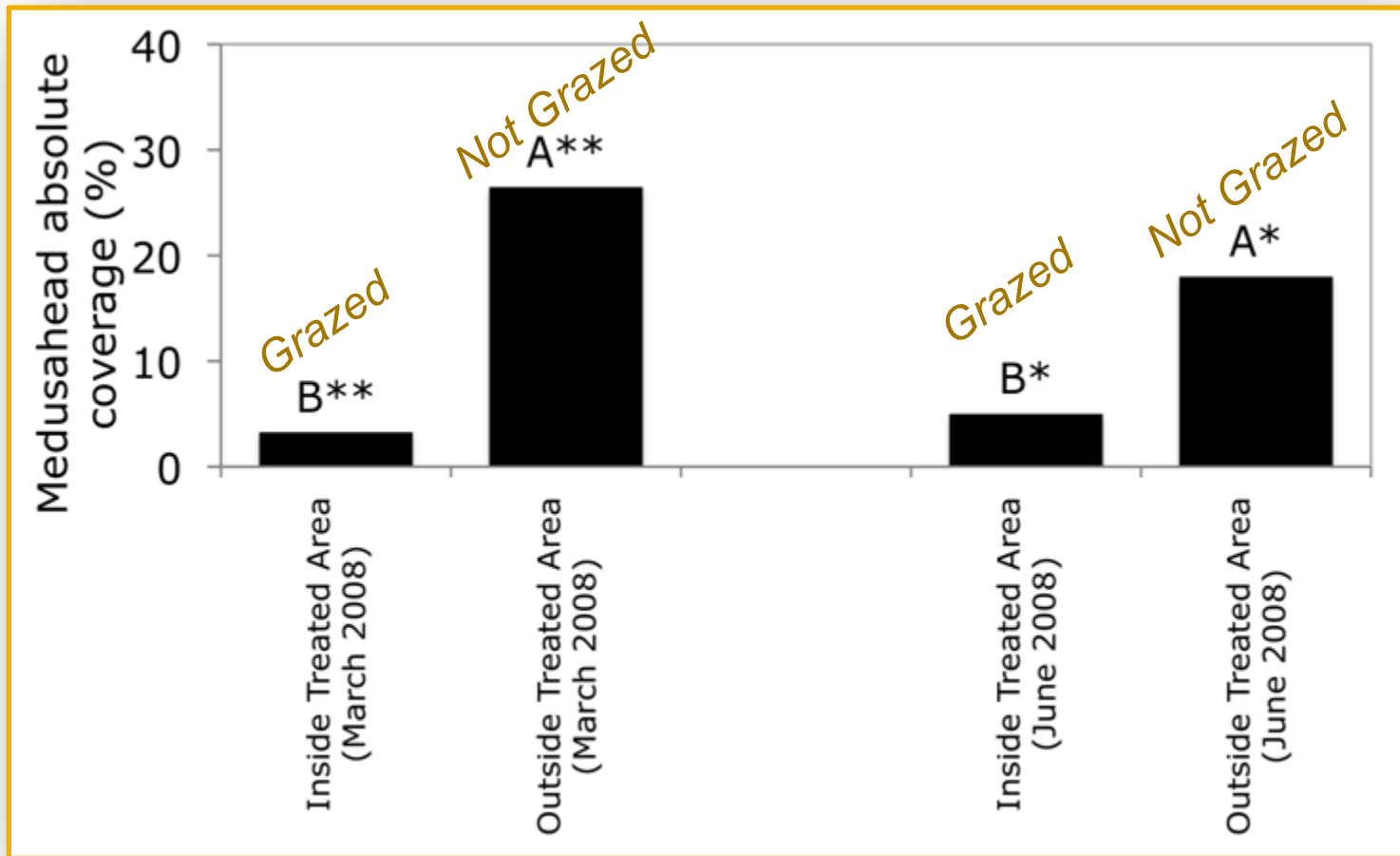
Grazing - Cheatgrass or Downy Brome



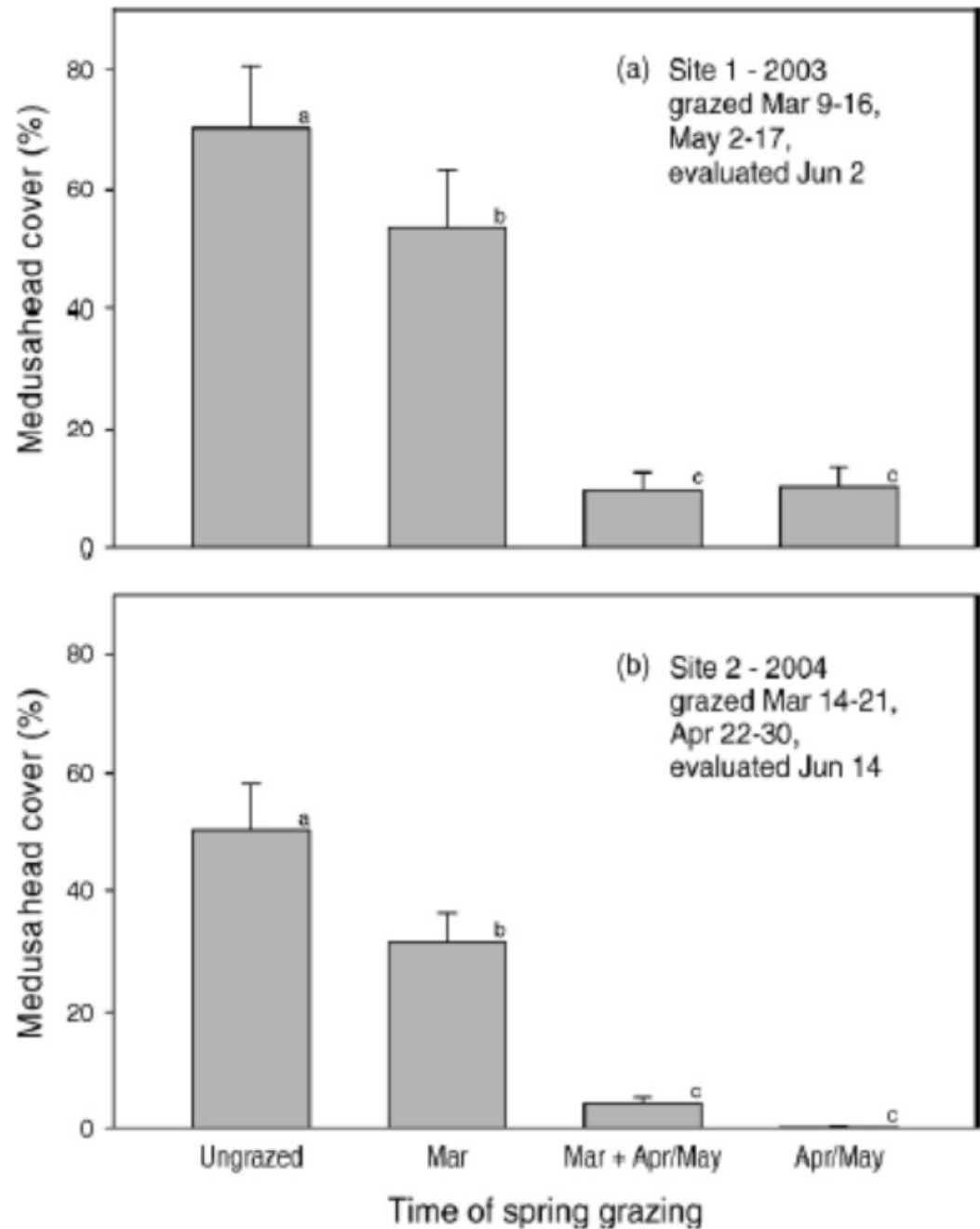
Fall/Winter Grazing - Cheatgrass



Grazing - Medusahead

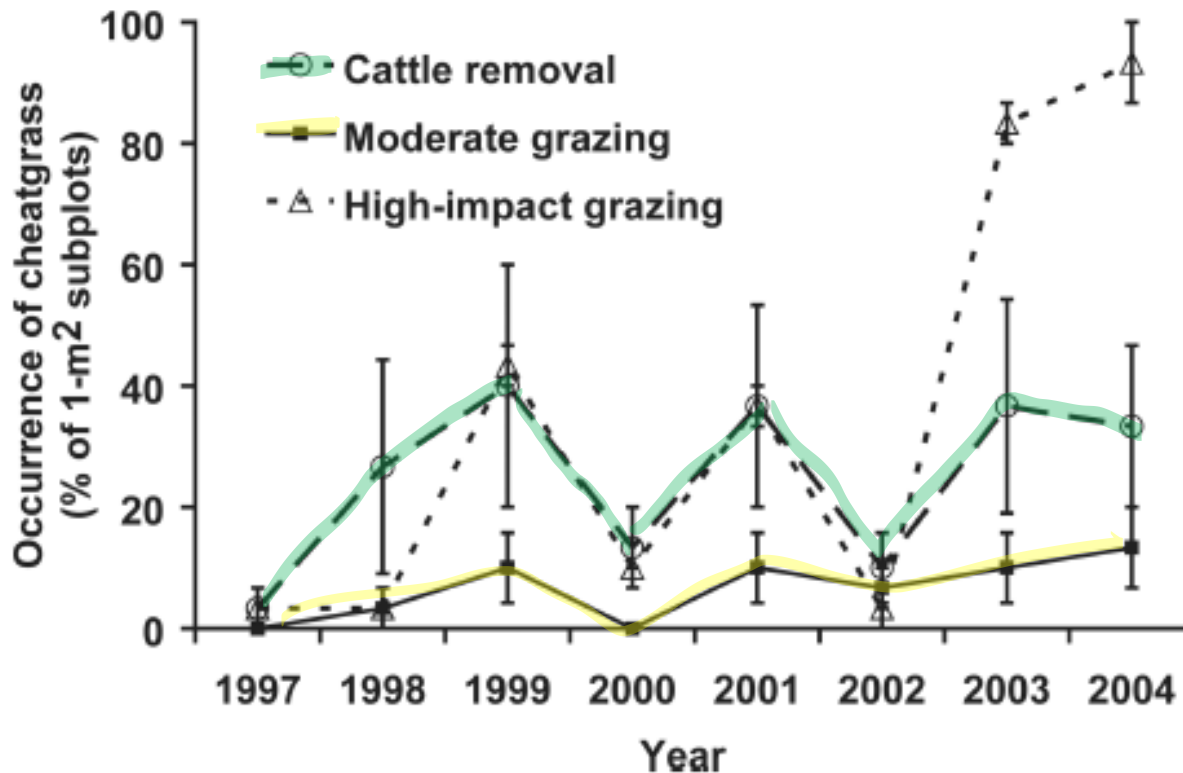


Grazing - Medusahead



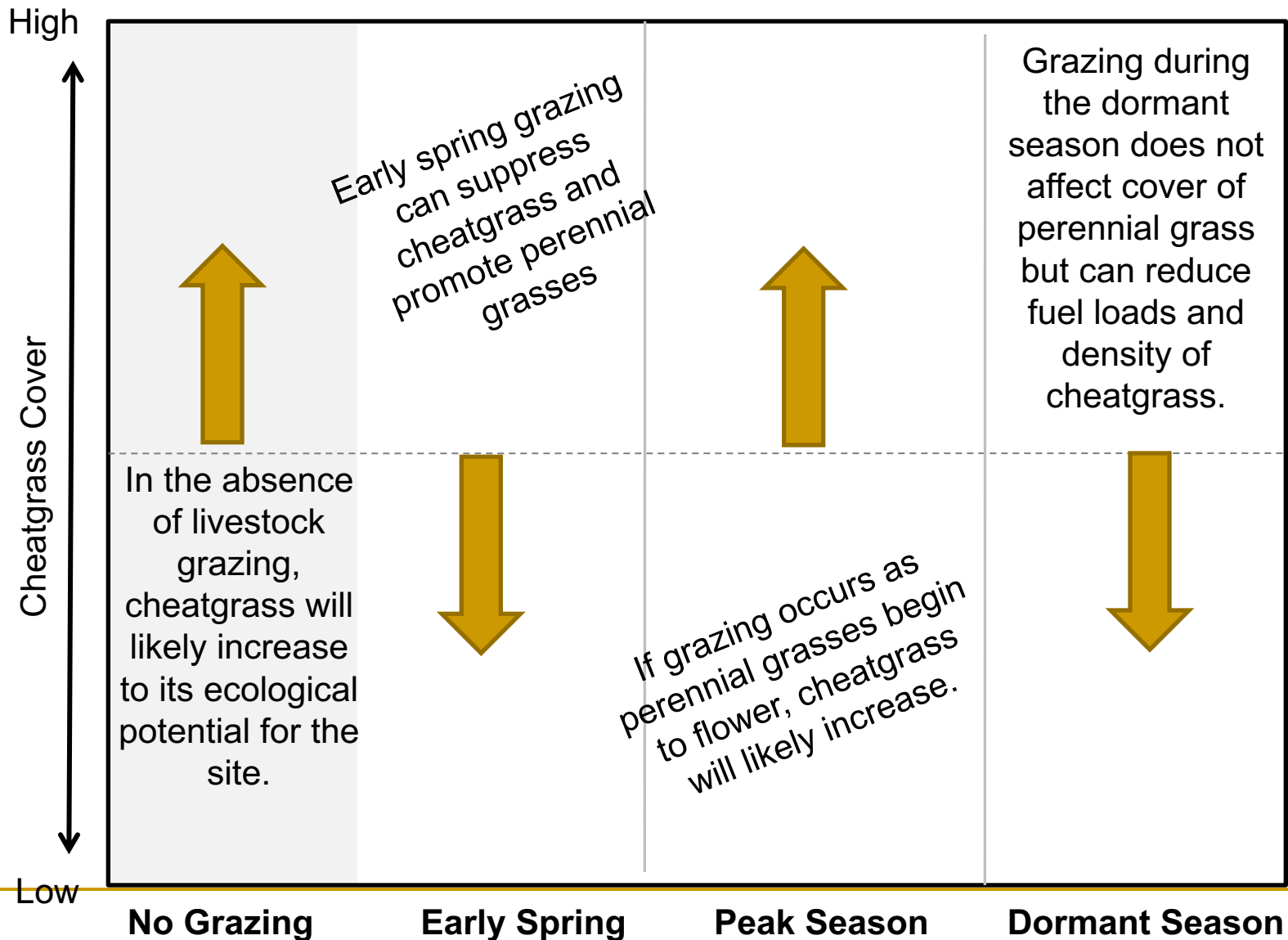
Grazing Cheatgrass

8-year Grazing Study in
Northern Arizona

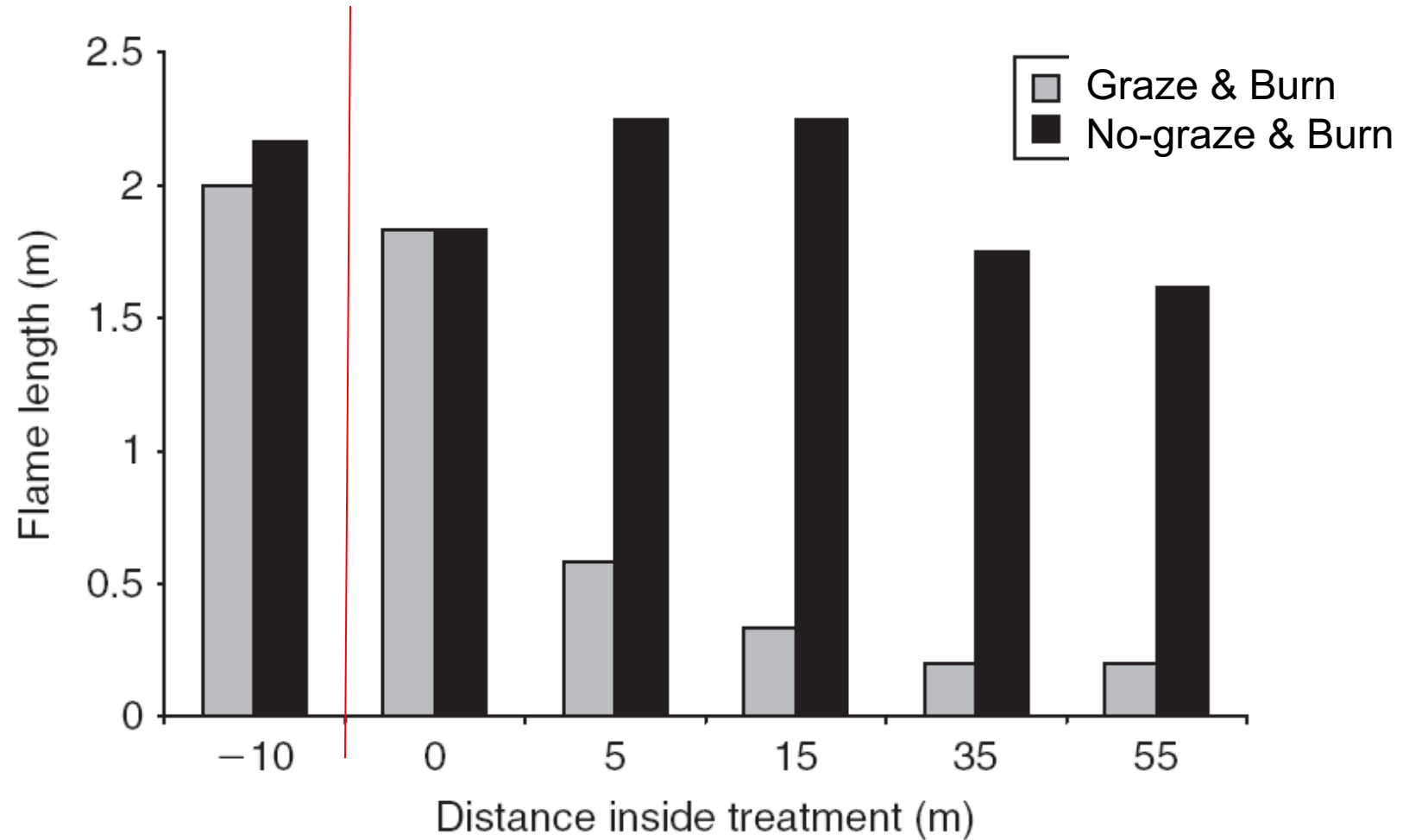


- Moderate grazing had less cheatgrass than no grazing
- Moderate grazing also had less cheatgrass than heavy “High Impact” grazing
- High Impact grazing caused a great increase in cheatgrass after drought year.

Grazing and Cheatgrass



Grazing Affects Flame Length- Cheatgrass





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#724

Grazing Invasive Annual Grasses: The Green and Brown Guide



Grazing & Fuels

What do we really know?

1) Grazing can reduce fuels.

2) Grazing will not stop fires under very hot & dry conditions.

3) Grazing can reduce cheatgrass & grazing can increase cheatgrass.

4) Grazing can reduce fire intensity & promote recovery after fire.

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