

Historical ecology:

How do events of the past help us understand the location and abundance of the organisms we see today?

- ① – set prairie fires annually
- create prairie-open woodlands
Complex
- why did they set fires?
 - There used to be prairies...
 - What is a prairie-open woodlands complex?

- 2). they ended the annual burning
 - they replaced native vegetation with farms, housing, and industry/commercial development

- Grasses, not oaks and firs, burned because the trees have fire-resistant bark.

④

- What is different about these fires from a forest fire?
- Fire-resistant is not fireproof!
- Maybe there wasn't that much fuel (sticks, leaves, dead trees) because the annual burning kept this material from accumulating
- Fires were slow-burning, cool (not much fuel)
moved slowly

They were talking about the hypothetical climax vegetation.

What is this?

⑤

- What they meant was - if humans weren't around and the land was left completely alone, what would grow there? Douglas Fir.
- In other words human beings have kept the W.V. from being a Douglas Fir forest.