

# 1. According to the evidence in this paper, how did Native Americans "manage" the Willamette Valley?

They burned annually:

- To reduce competition for trees (?)
- Clear out underbrush — to direct animals to small hunting spots
- "Prairie open woodlands complex" — ?

2. How have European settlers and their descendents “managed” the Willamette Valley since the mid 1800’s?

- Stopped widespread burning
- Farmed, built urban centers

3. *In your own words* explain why firs now dominate many former prairies in the Willamette Valley.

When humans aren't involved (in the Willamette Valley), lots of trees start growing.

Some trees spread out as they grow (maples, oaks, ash); others grow tall and thin.

Trees that grow taller eventually block the sunlight of the trees that stay shorter.

# SUCCESsion:

Gradual change in the vegetation of an area.

- Predictable
- There's an end point when change stops (unless there's a reset to an earlier stage)

#### 4. Why did prairie fires burn the grasses but not the oak trees?

- Fires were cool (grasses & light fuel burns quickly & stays cool)
- Fires stayed low - bark of big trees is fire-resistant
- Since fires were annual, there was little dense fuel

5. Shantz and Zon characterized the native vegetation of the Willamette Valley as Douglas fir forest. However, it is clear that the dominant vegetation of the valley throughout recorded history has been prairies and grasslands. What did they mean by their characterization?

They were talking about succession— they recognized that natural fires didn't occur often enough to maintain prairie and savanna. So when the fires stopped, Douglas Fir would take over.