

Pinyon Jays in a Managed Landscape

Scott Somershoe
U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service



Pinyon Jays use a wide variety of woodland habitats

Pine Nut Mtns, western Nevada



Pinyon Jays use a wide variety of woodland habitats

Pine Nut Mtns, western Nevada



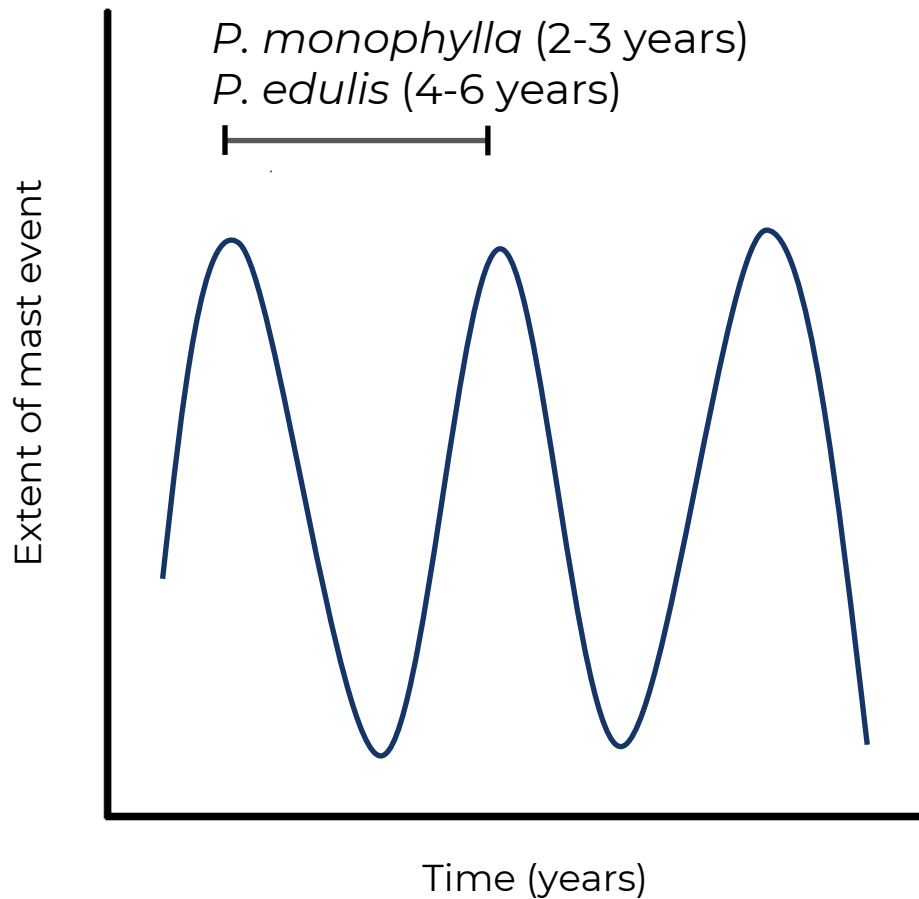
Central Colorado



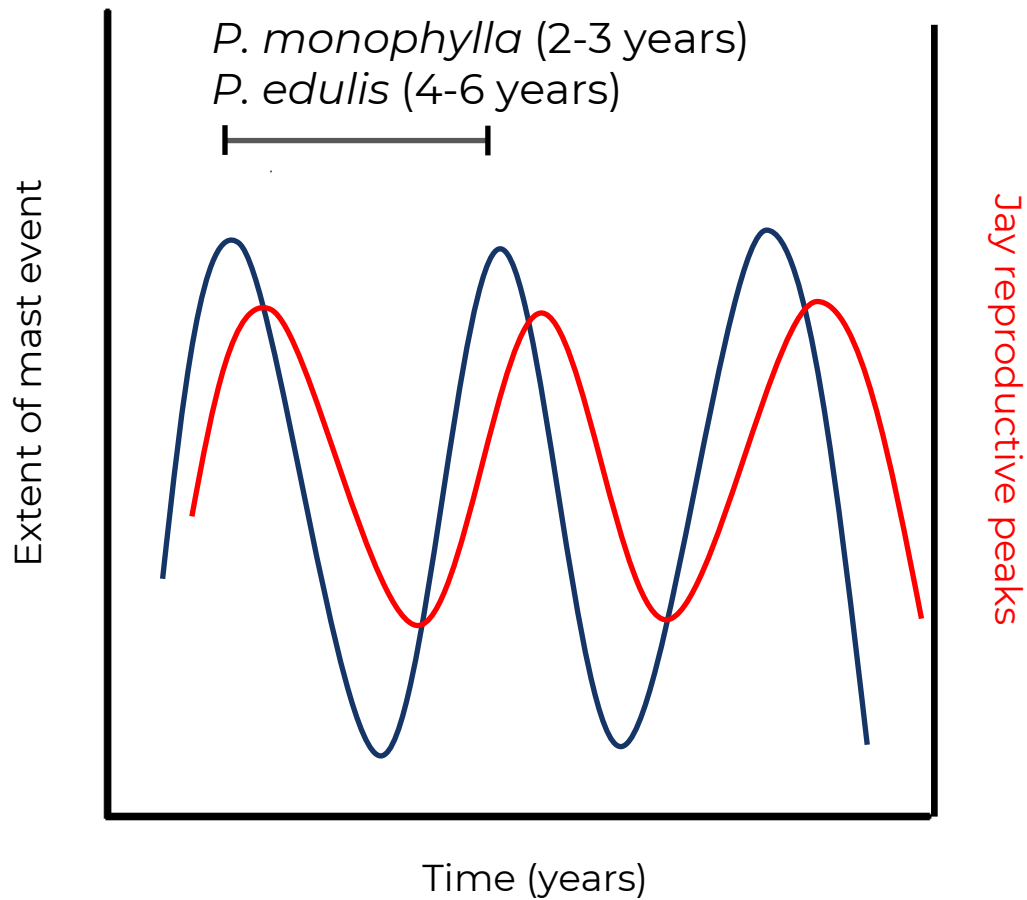
What could be causing Pinyon Jay declines?

Potential cause	Hypothesized mechanism	Existing evidence
Changes in woodland condition or structure	Infill, increasing proportion of closed canopy stands	Limited
Habitat loss	Removal of habitat for other management goals. Mortality due to drought, wildfire, insect or disease outbreaks.	Limited
Changing climate	Increased woodland mortality through wildfire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks. *Declining mast production.	Limited
Direct predation	Raven or other species predation reduces nest success	Limited

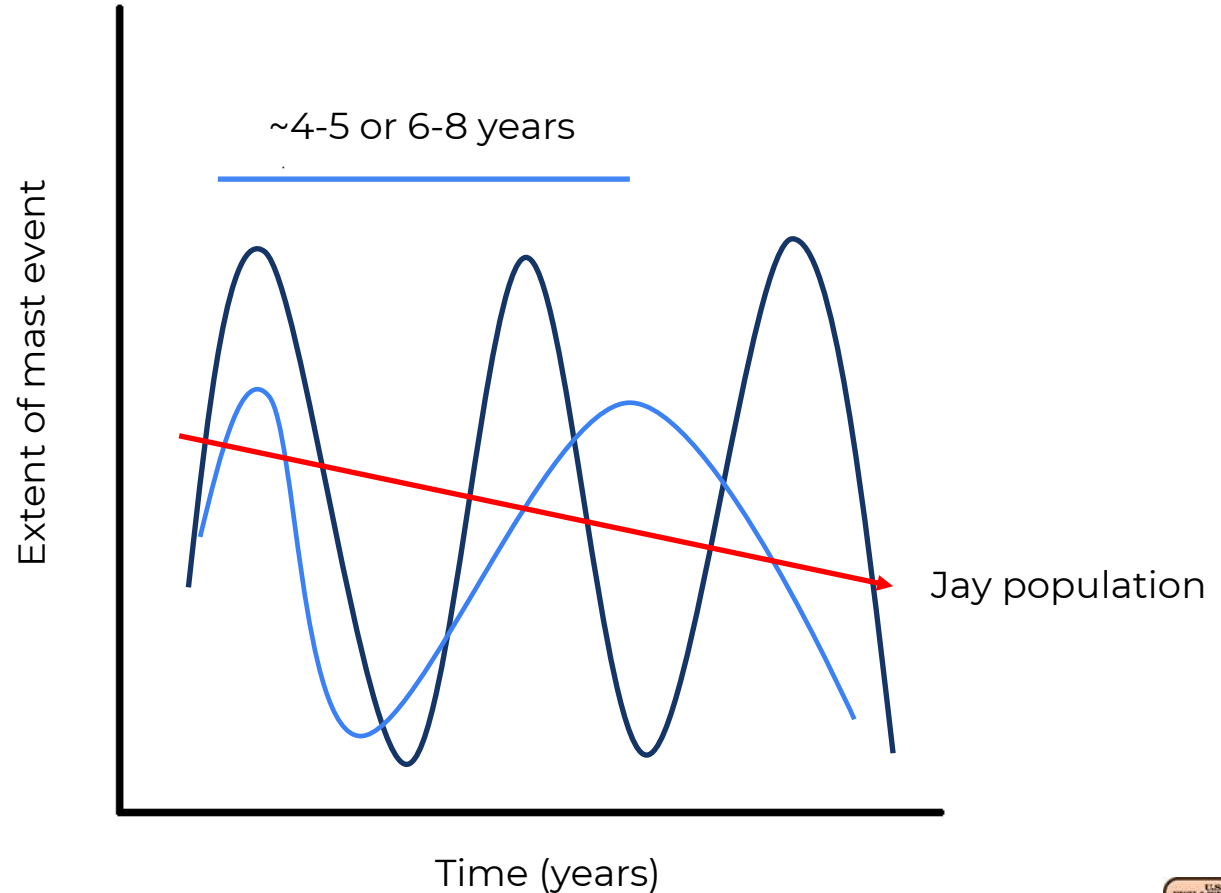
Generalized historic mast event frequency



Generalized
historic mast
event frequency



Changing mast event frequency and extent in hotter, drier conditions



Intersection of multiple management objectives



Montrose, CO



Photos courtesy of Renee Chi

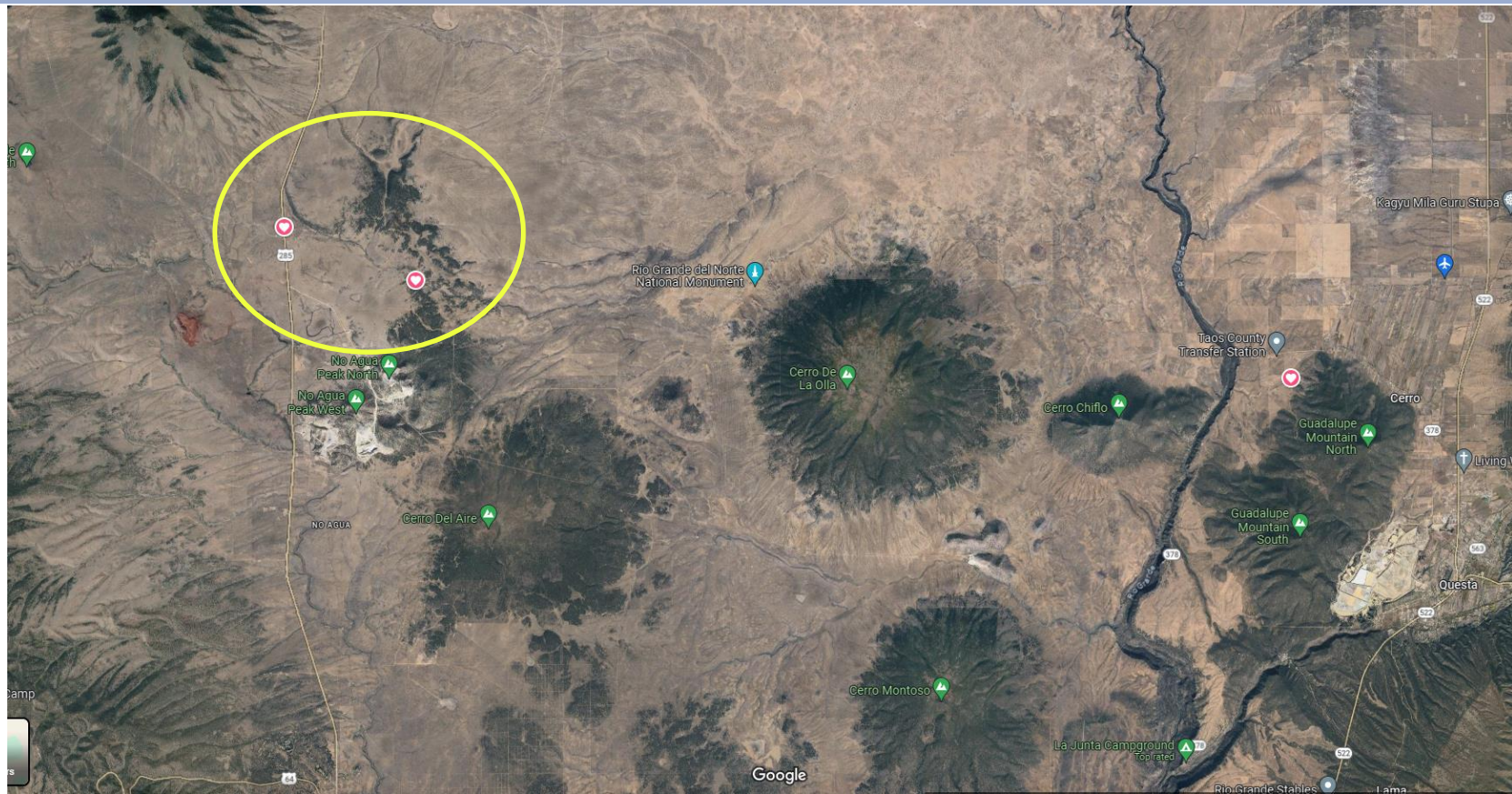
Rio Grande del Norte National Monument



Rio Grande del Norte National Monument



Rio Grande del Norte National Monument



Rio Grande del Norte National Monument



Rio Grande del Norte NM, northern NM



Sagebrush interface SW Utah



Use of the woodland-sagebrush ecotone



Interface with woodland treatments

Orangeville/Huntington, Utah



Take homes:



- Build the learning network with effective info transfer
- Support management for heterogenous, ecologically functional woodlands and ecotones
- Build holistic management approaches for balancing multiple priorities

Thanks!

Scott_Somershoe@fws.gov

Google “Pinyon Jay Working Group”

