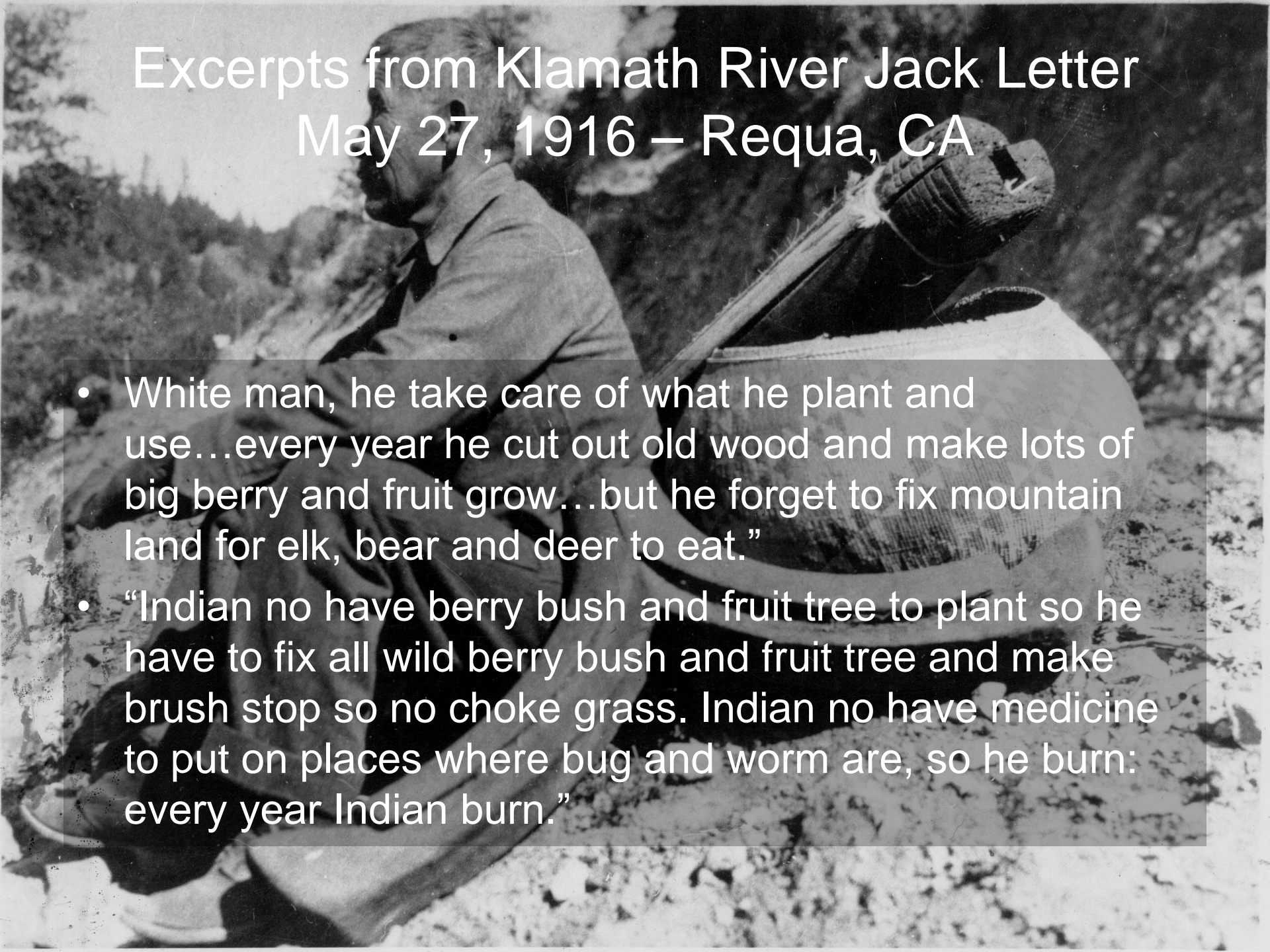


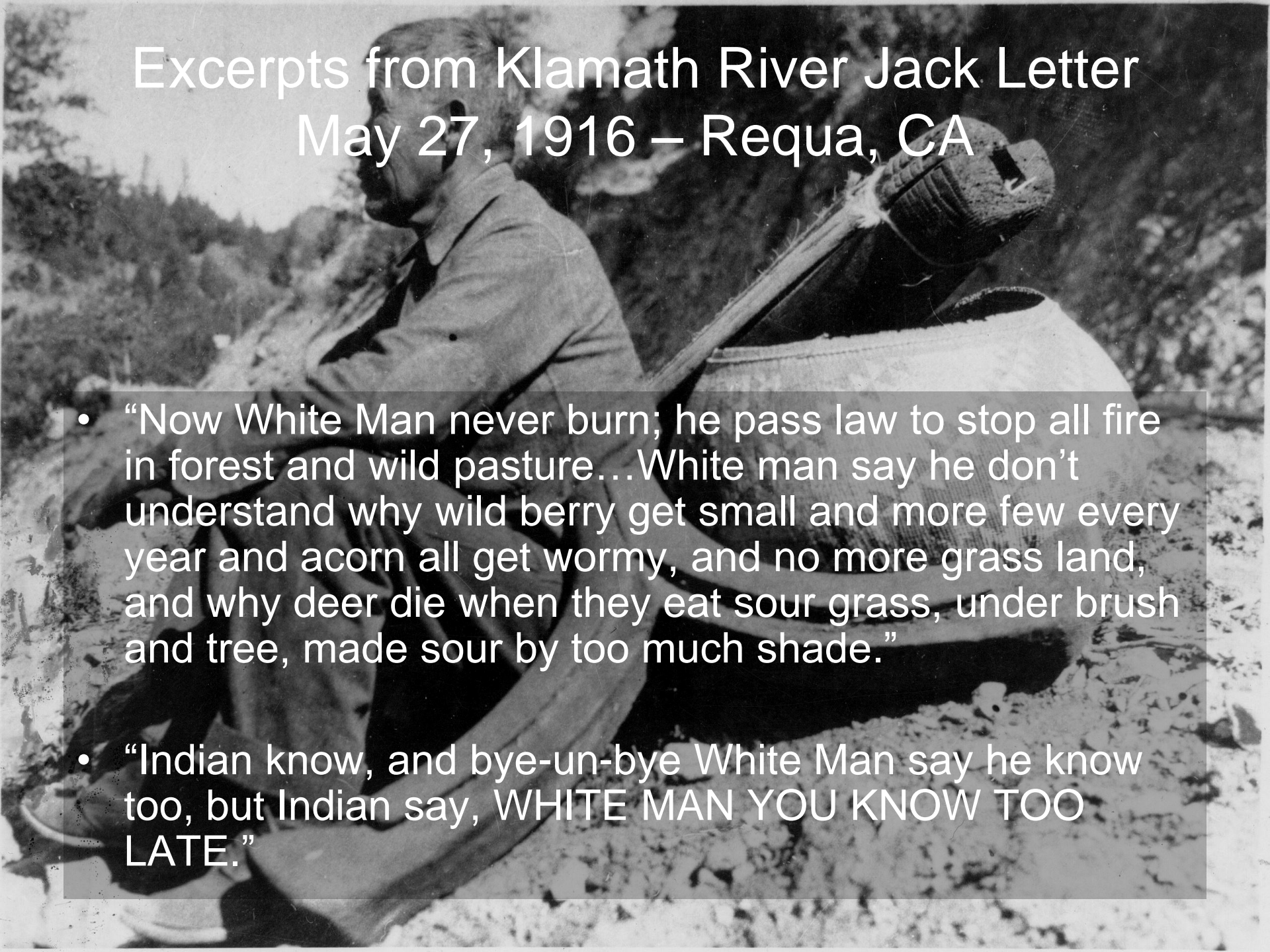
Fire Suppression and the Persistence of Indian Burning

- 1911 – Congress Passes the Weeks Act
- 1916 - Letter from Klamath River Jack and USFS Reply
- 1918 – Letter from Orleans District Ranger Harley to Klamath NF Supervisor – First 7 Years of Fire Suppression
- 1923 – S.B. Show’s “Analytical Study of the First Decade of Fire Suppression in California” and Review of the “Light Burning Theory”
- 1949 – General Inspection of the Six Rivers NF



Excerpts from Klamath River Jack Letter
May 27, 1916 – Requa, CA

- White man, he take care of what he plant and use...every year he cut out old wood and make lots of big berry and fruit grow...but he forget to fix mountain land for elk, bear and deer to eat.”
- “Indian no have berry bush and fruit tree to plant so he have to fix all wild berry bush and fruit tree and make brush stop so no choke grass. Indian no have medicine to put on places where bug and worm are, so he burn: every year Indian burn.”

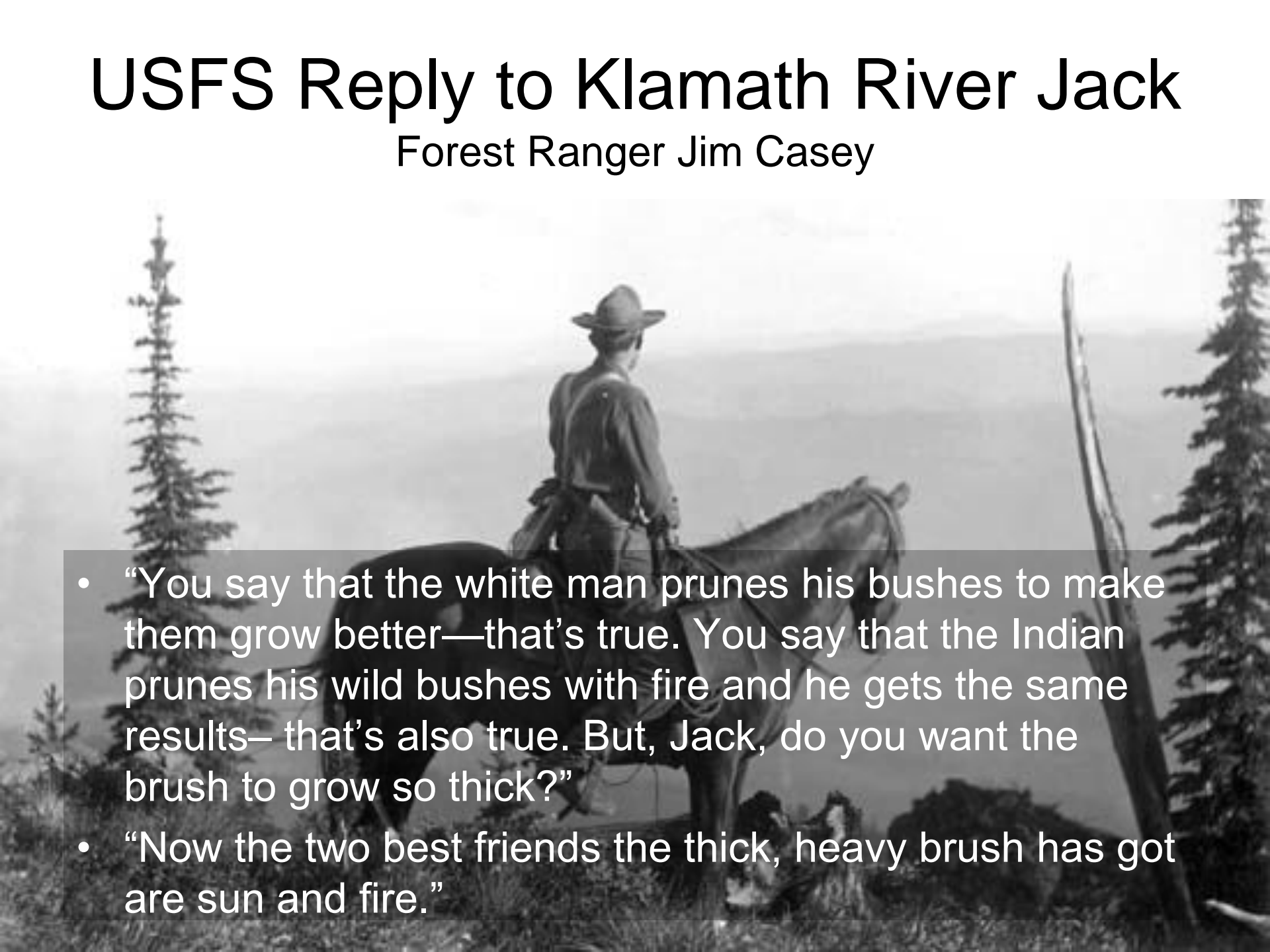


Excerpts from Klamath River Jack Letter
May 27, 1916 – Requa, CA

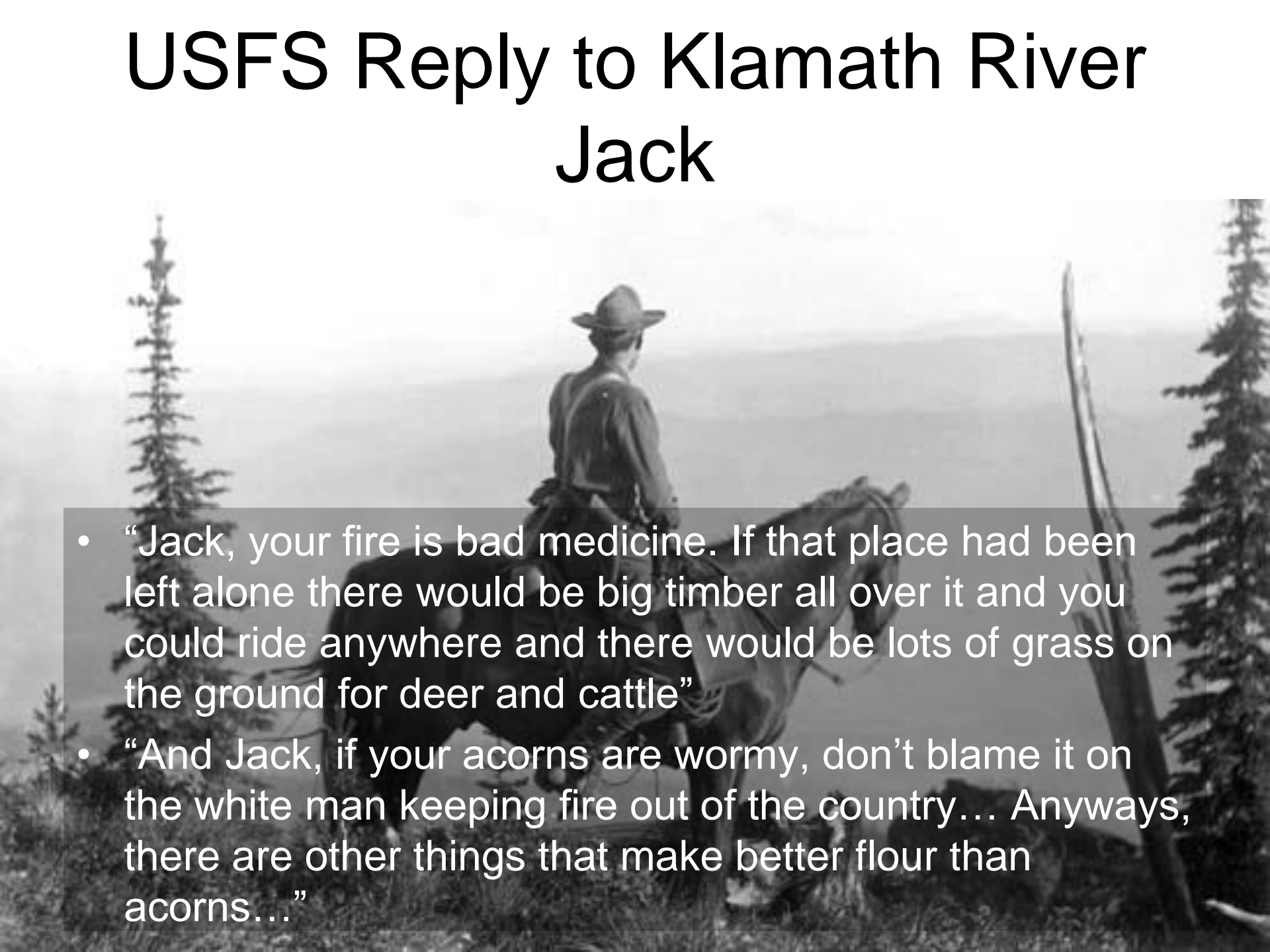
- “Now White Man never burn; he pass law to stop all fire in forest and wild pasture...White man say he don’t understand why wild berry get small and more few every year and acorn all get wormy, and no more grass land, and why deer die when they eat sour grass, under brush and tree, made sour by too much shade.”
- “Indian know, and bye-un-bye White Man say he know too, but Indian say, **WHITE MAN YOU KNOW TOO LATE.**”

USFS Reply to Klamath River Jack

Forest Ranger Jim Casey

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- A black and white photograph of a forest ranger on a horse, looking out over a misty landscape with evergreen trees. The ranger is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark jacket, and is mounted on a dark horse. The background is a hazy, mountainous landscape with several tall evergreen trees. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.
- “You say that the white man prunes his bushes to make them grow better—that’s true. You say that the Indian prunes his wild bushes with fire and he gets the same results— that’s also true. But, Jack, do you want the brush to grow so thick?”
 - “Now the two best friends the thick, heavy brush has got are sun and fire.”

USFS Reply to Klamath River Jack

- 
- “Jack, your fire is bad medicine. If that place had been left alone there would be big timber all over it and you could ride anywhere and there would be lots of grass on the ground for deer and cattle”
 - “And Jack, if your acorns are wormy, don’t blame it on the white man keeping fire out of the country... Anyways, there are other things that make better flour than acorns...”

1918 Letter from Orleans District Ranger F.W. Harley to Klamath NF Supervisor Rider

- From 1911-1917 there were 43 fires averaging 5.7 acres
- “[We] are succeeding [at suppression] to a certain extent, and the consequence is, at the present time, there is more thick underbrush, windfalls and general humus as a forest cover than before the service was in effect”.
- “In this district, there is practically no open range, old residents will tell you there used to be lots of open range...”



1918 Ranger Harley Letter cont.

- “Cattlemen, Homesteaders, Prospectors, Hunters, and the “Pure Cussed Class” of “Renegade Whites and Indians” continue to light fires. How do we convince them otherwise?”
- Solution 1: Allow burns in certain areas for grazing, introduce goats, and “in the pure cussedness class, the only sure way is to kill them off...”
- Solution 2: Hire Mrs. Watkins, a white missionary, to “travel up and down the river..., stopping at different Indian houses, talking to them in regards to their own welfare, but the principle point to impress on them would be the fire question... My idea is that it be kept a secret that she was in the employ of the service. ”

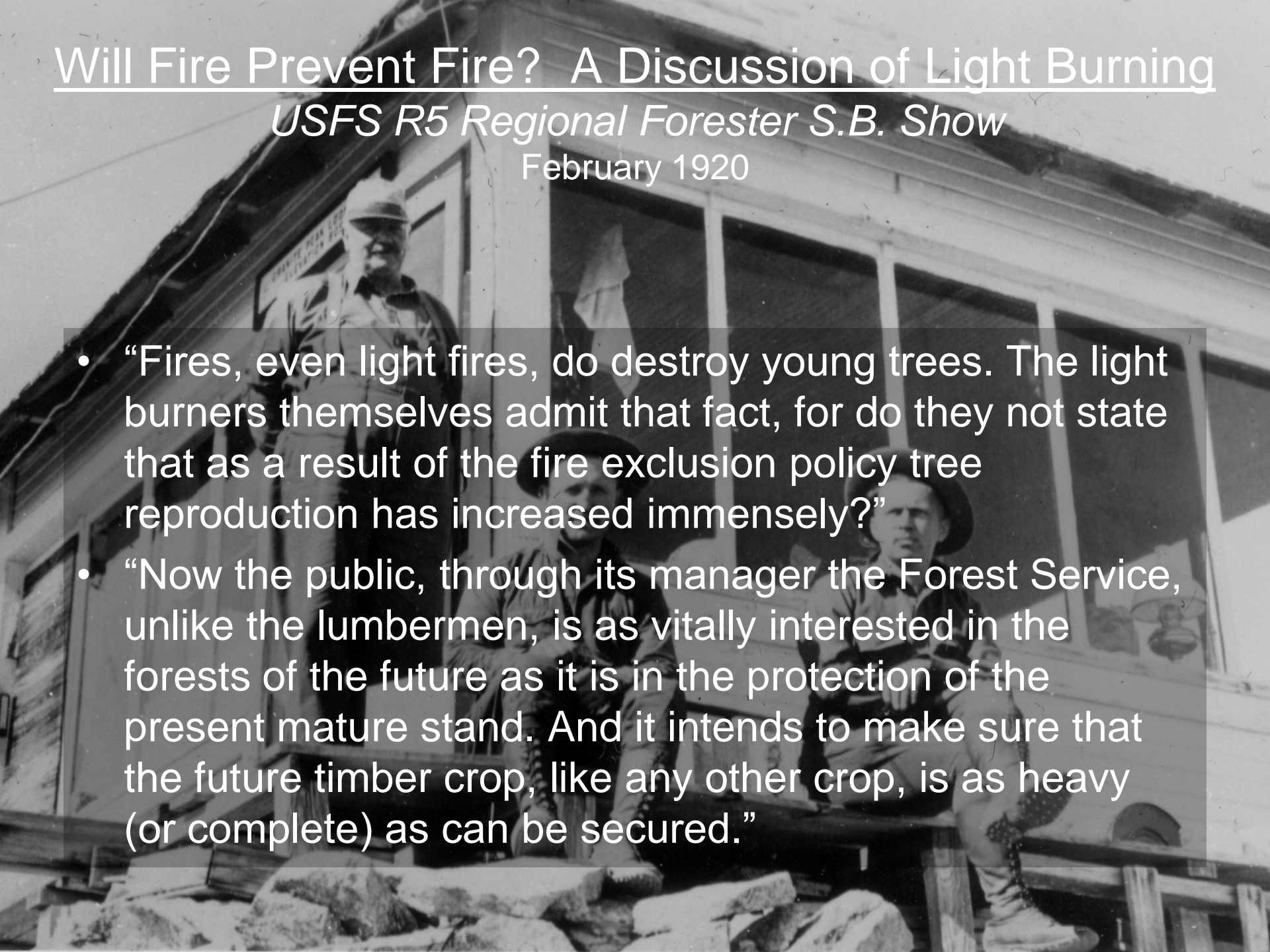


Will Fire Prevent Fire? A Discussion of Light Burning

USFS R5 Regional Forester S.B. Show

February 1920

- “Fires, even light fires, do destroy young trees. The light burners themselves admit that fact, for do they not state that as a result of the fire exclusion policy tree reproduction has increased immensely?”
- “Now the public, through its manager the Forest Service, unlike the lumbermen, is as vitally interested in the forests of the future as it is in the protection of the present mature stand. And it intends to make sure that the future timber crop, like any other crop, is as heavy (or complete) as can be secured.”

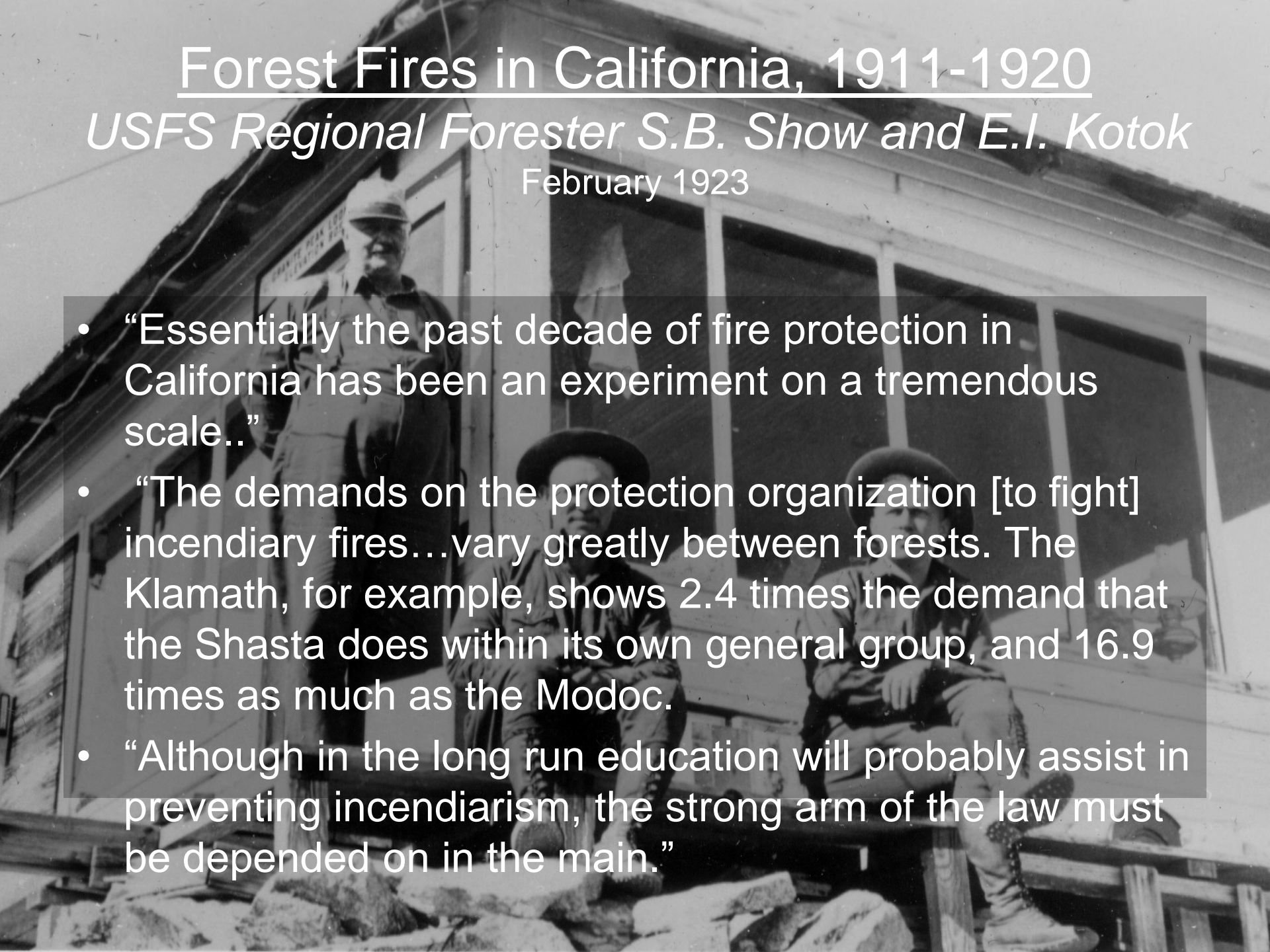


Forest Fires in California, 1911-1920

USFS Regional Forester S.B. Show and E.I. Kotok

February 1923

- “Essentially the past decade of fire protection in California has been an experiment on a tremendous scale..”
- “The demands on the protection organization [to fight] incendiary fires...vary greatly between forests. The Klamath, for example, shows 2.4 times the demand that the Shasta does within its own general group, and 16.9 times as much as the Modoc.
- “Although in the long run education will probably assist in preventing incendiarism, the strong arm of the law must be depended on in the main.”



MAP OF
HOOPA VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION
CALIFORNIA

1912

Exec Orders of June 23, 1876 and
Scale of Miles

Humboldt Meridian

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Hon. F.H. Abbott, Acting Commissioner

General Inspection Six Rivers NF 1949 - Cronemiller and Kern

- “In three years (1947-1949) there have been 92 fires averaging 31 acres.”
- “In 1949, there was the most serious outbreak of incendiaryism in years. The fires were Indian caused and concentrated in the Orleans Districts and the Indian populated “river strip”...”
- “[We] gave considerable thought and study to the incendiary problem. Our conclusion is that it is broader and deeper than often conceived...”

LEGEND

- Indian Villages
- Schools
- Roads and Trails
- Arrows
- Fires 1851
- Graded Trails
- Green Lines - Good
- Brown Lines - Poor
- Proposed Trail

R.2E.

R.3E.

R.4E.

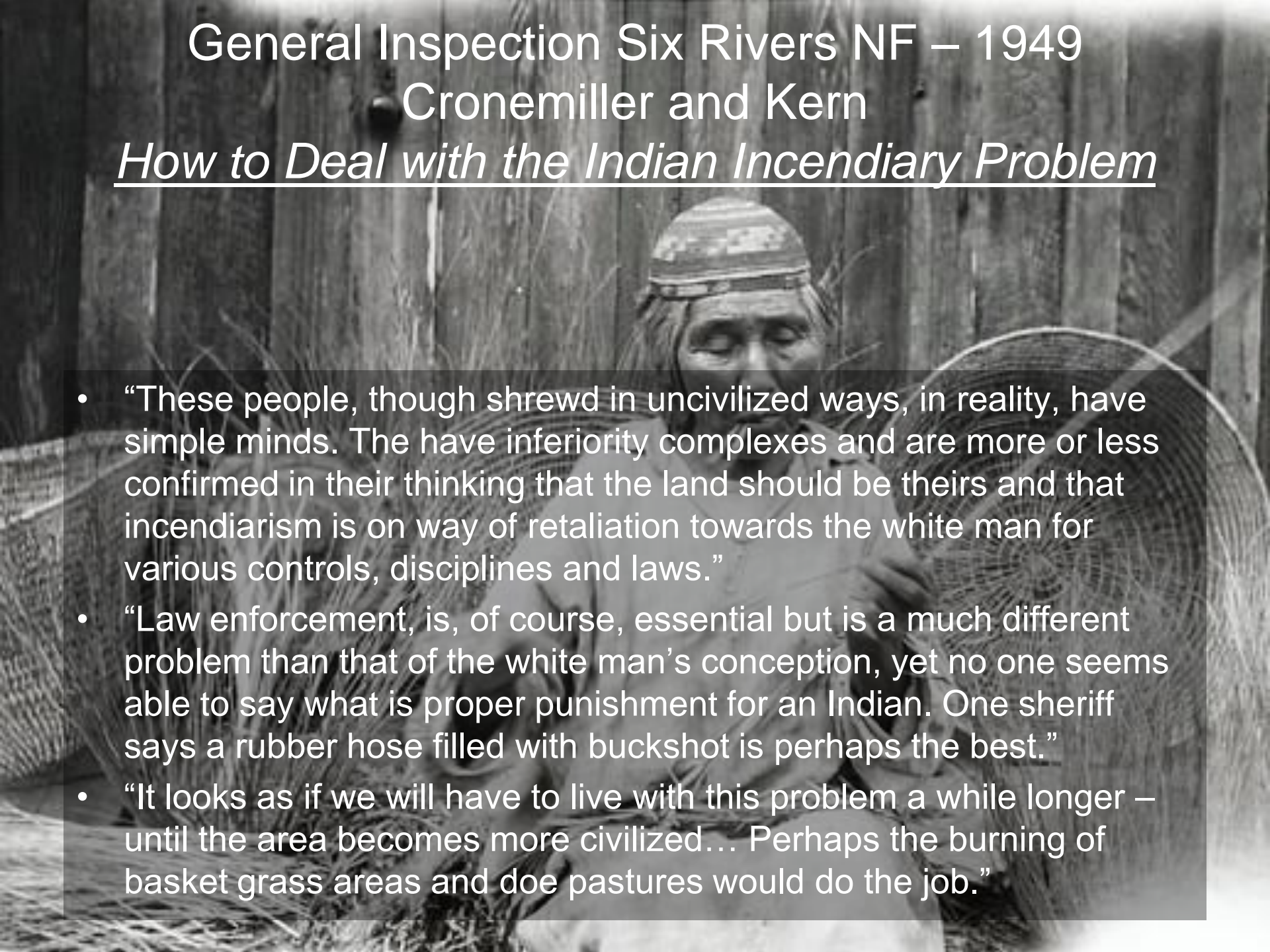
R.5E.

Credited and drawn from...
by Albert Henderson.

General Inspection Six Rivers NF – 1949

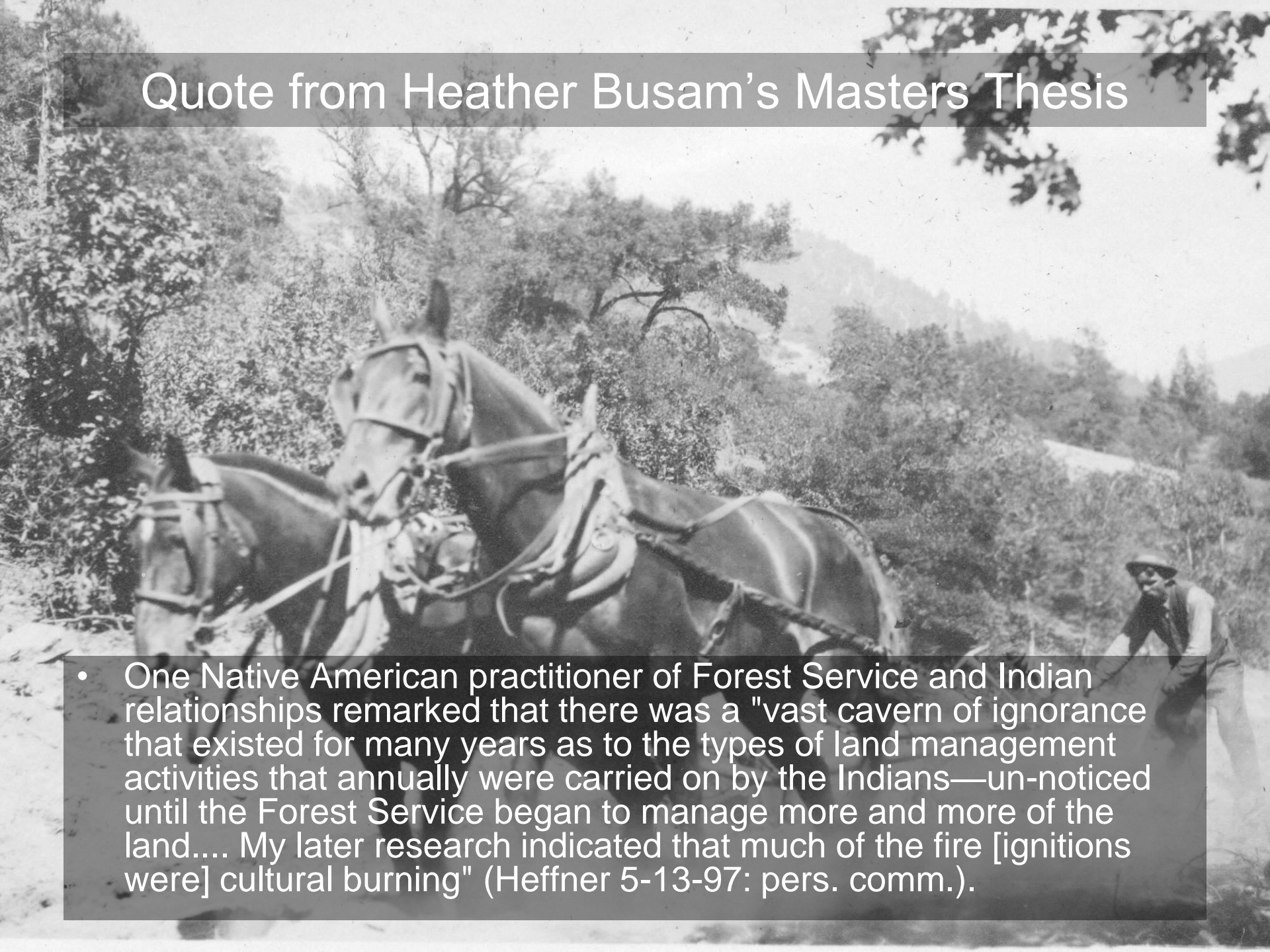
Cronemiller and Kern

How to Deal with the Indian Incendiary Problem


- 
- “These people, though shrewd in uncivilized ways, in reality, have simple minds. They have inferiority complexes and are more or less confirmed in their thinking that the land should be theirs and that incendiarism is on way of retaliation towards the white man for various controls, disciplines and laws.”
 - “Law enforcement, is, of course, essential but is a much different problem than that of the white man’s conception, yet no one seems able to say what is proper punishment for an Indian. One sheriff says a rubber hose filled with buckshot is perhaps the best.”
 - “It looks as if we will have to live with this problem a while longer – until the area becomes more civilized... Perhaps the burning of basket grass areas and doe pastures would do the job.”

Quote from Heather Busam's Masters Thesis

- One Native American practitioner of Forest Service and Indian relationships remarked that there was a "vast cavern of ignorance that existed for many years as to the types of land management activities that annually were carried on by the Indians—un-noticed until the Forest Service began to manage more and more of the land.... My later research indicated that much of the fire [ignitions were] cultural burning" (Heffner 5-13-97: pers. comm.).



Fast-forward to Present Day

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- A silhouette of a bird perched on a branch, with a bear's head and paws visible in the background, set against a cloudy sky.
- Issues with “Orleans Community Fuels Reduction Project” highlights need for better collaboration
 - Nolan Colegrove hired as Orleans District Ranger
 - Six Rivers NF unveils “Rivers to Ridges Ecological Restoration” Vision, including Oak Woodland restoration
 - Obama signs UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights:
 - Article 26: “indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.”

Big Rock Today

