EMC MEETING 6/16 - STATUS REPORT

"PRE- AND POST-HARVEST FUEL LOADS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SITE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY"

DRIVER

Large, severe wildfires affect multiple values associated with forests

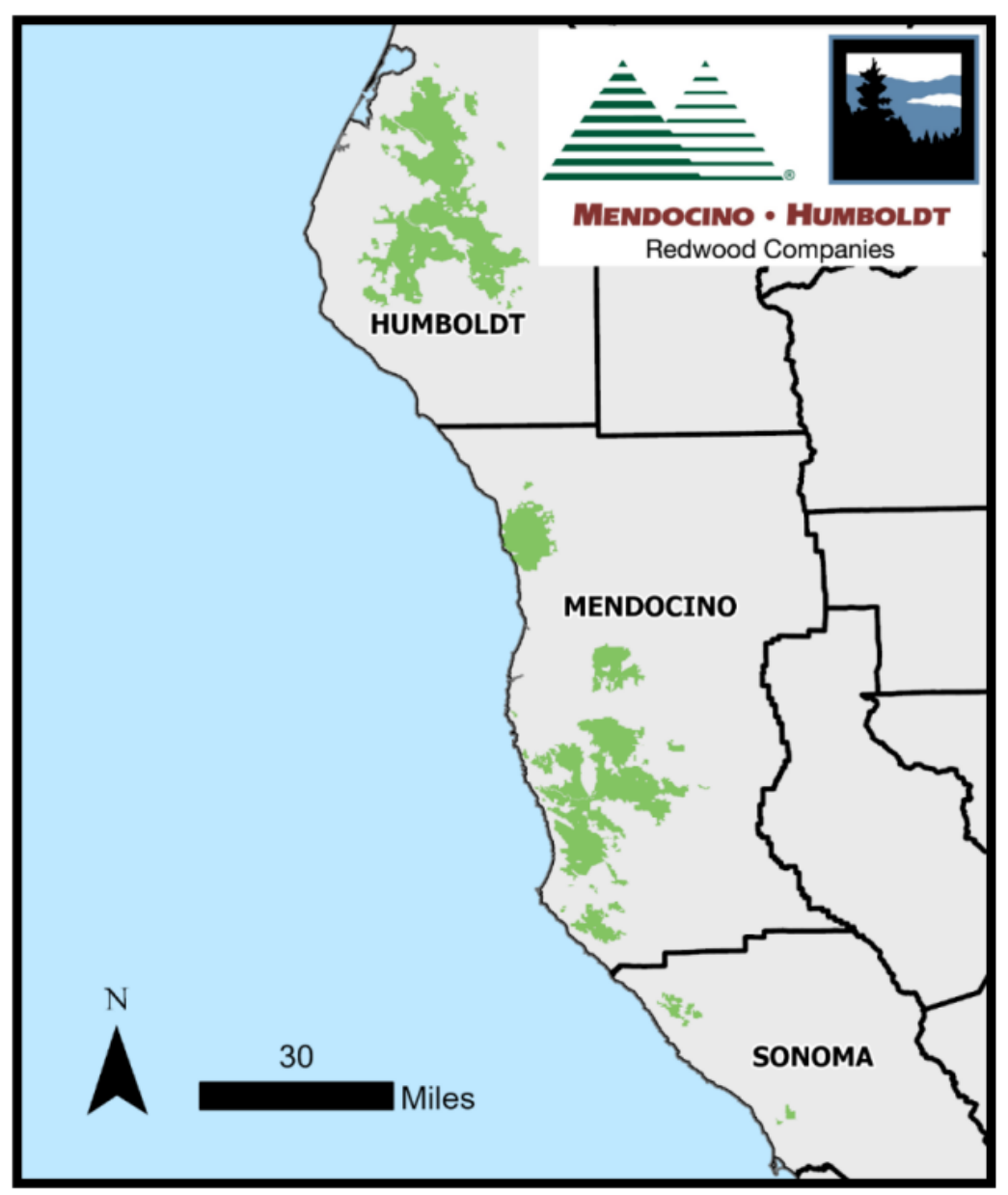
Residual slash from harvesting operations increases wildfire hazard by increasing the amount and continuity of surface fuels

Fuel management aims to reduce wildfire hazard and thereby risk of losses

Effectiveness of current fuel management practices is untested

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

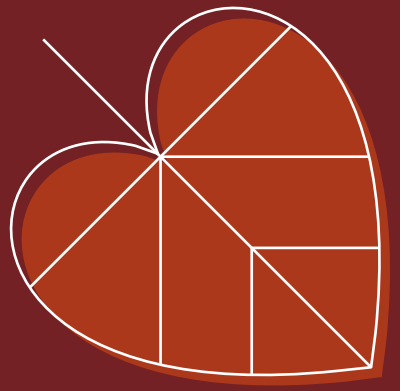
1. How does fuel load differ between common silvicultural regimes types pre- and post-harvest?
2. Are fuel management practices effective at reducing fuel load while also supporting site regeneration and productivity?
3. How does fuel load change over time?
4. How do adjacent lands influence wildfire hazard (transmission analysis)?



STUDY AREA

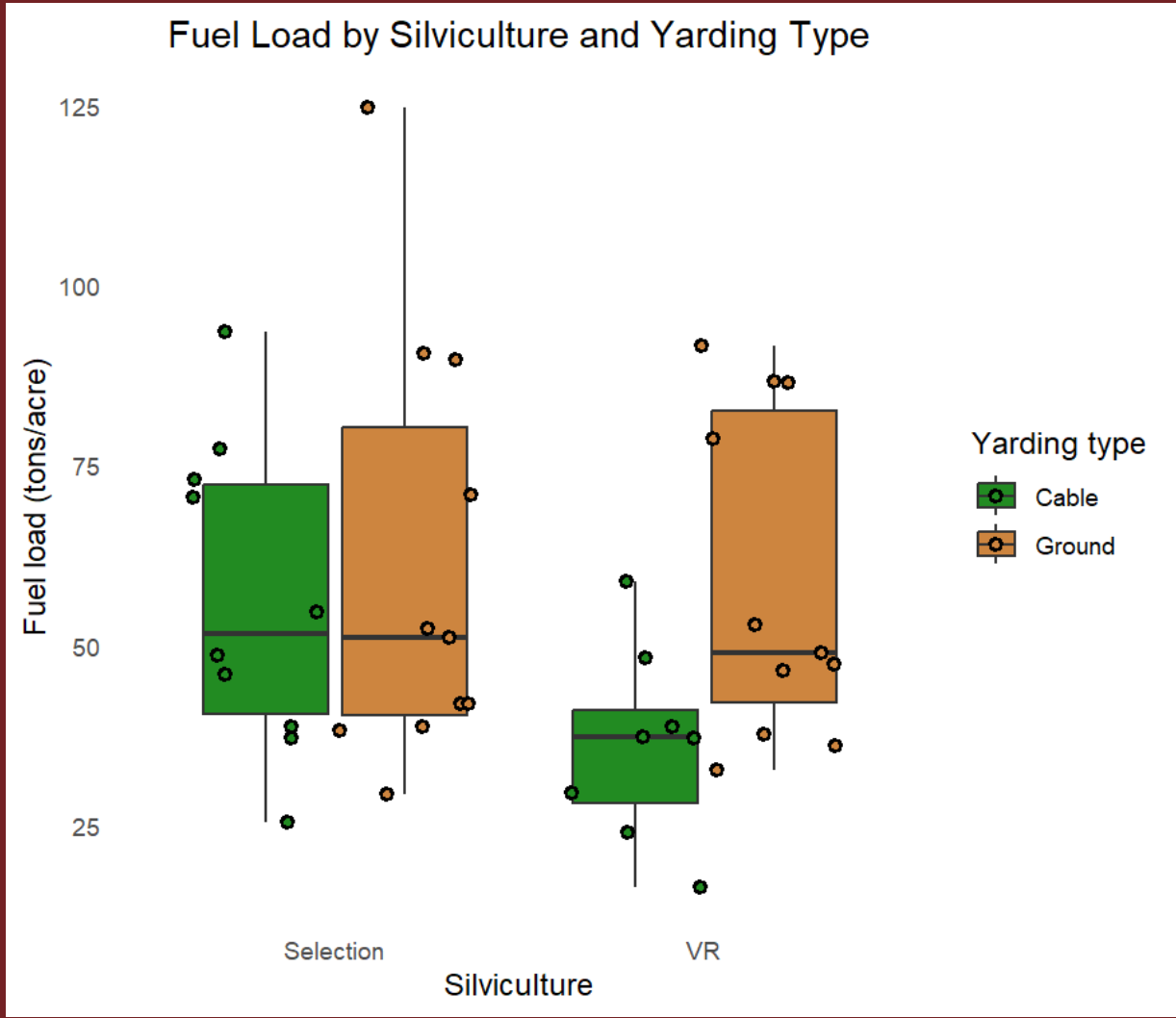
- Moist redwood and mixed conifer forests in Northern California
  - *Redwood*
  - *Douglas-fir*
  - *Tanoak*

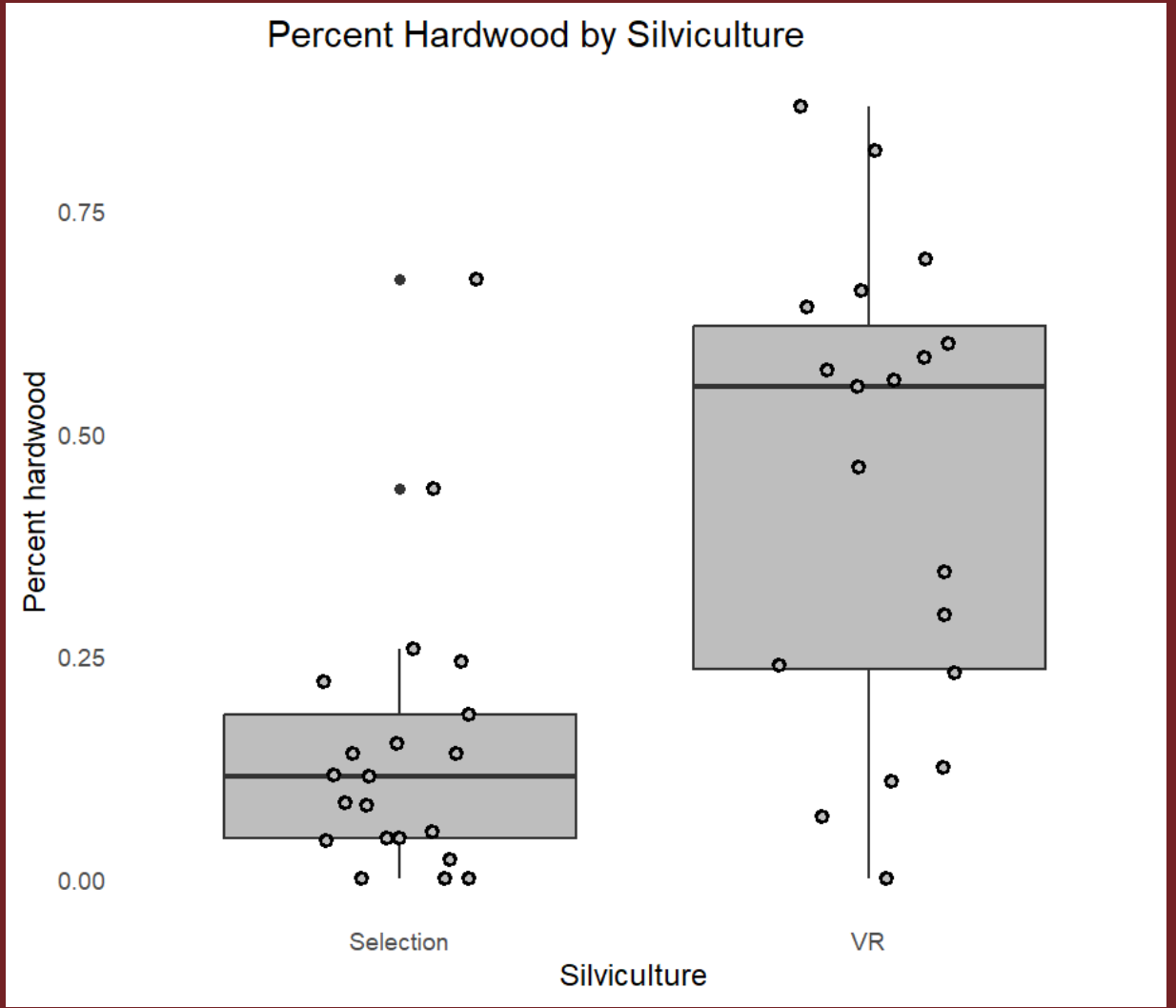
METHODS



- Pre-harvest data were collected in 2024 from sites with various harvesting systems and fuel treatments:
  - *Selection and Variable Retention Harvest*
    - Pile and burn in unit
    - Lop and scatter to 30” depth, pile and burn at landings
    - Broadcast burn
    - No treatment
    - Combinations with hack and squirt and hardwood removal
  - *Commercial Thinning – insufficient observations*

PRE-HARVEST RESULTS





QUESTIONS?