100 years is not Old Growth

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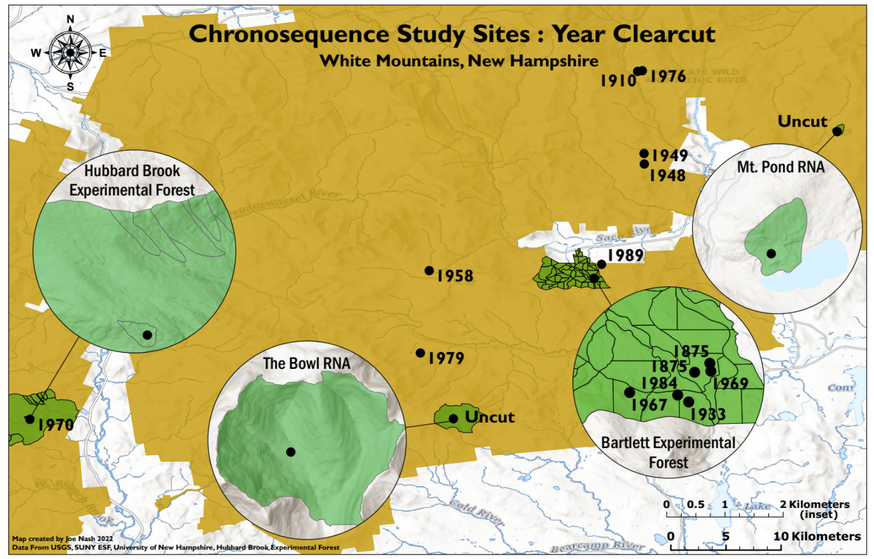
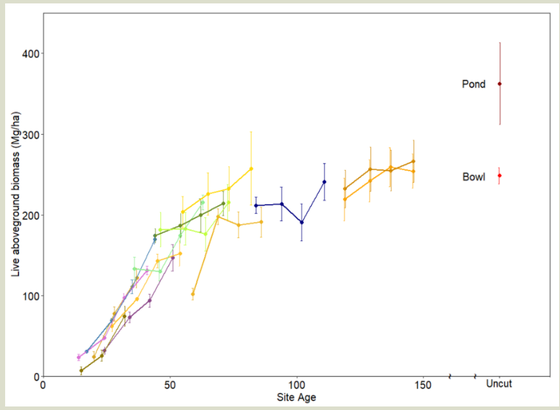
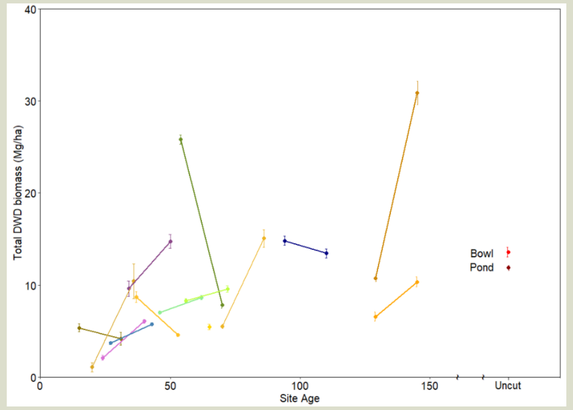
- **Forest development takes place over long periods of time and thus is difficult to study directly. One approach is to substitute space for time, by studying stands of different ages that have developed under similar climatic and edaphic conditions, and interpreting them as a chronosequence.**
- **We re-sampled a chronosequence of fourteen northern hardwood stands after 16 years to describe how stand level characteristics (volume, species contribution, and decay class) of woody debris vary with stand development.**
- **All stands are located in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and were clear-cut in the last 150 years.**
- **Two true old-growth forests were added to sampling in 2021 to enable comparisons with the oldest stands in the chronosequence.**



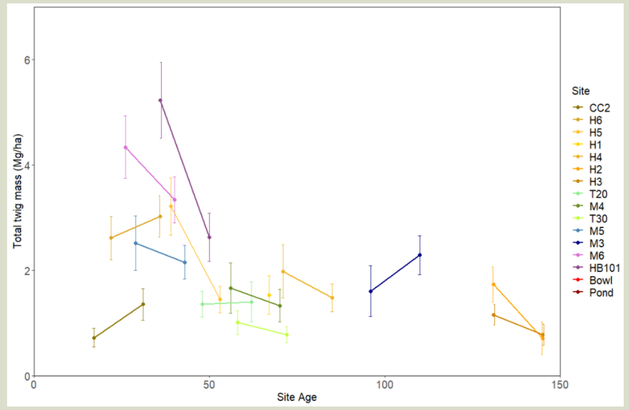
Aboveground biomass increases with stand age. Not significantly different between the oldest chronosequence and true old growth sites.



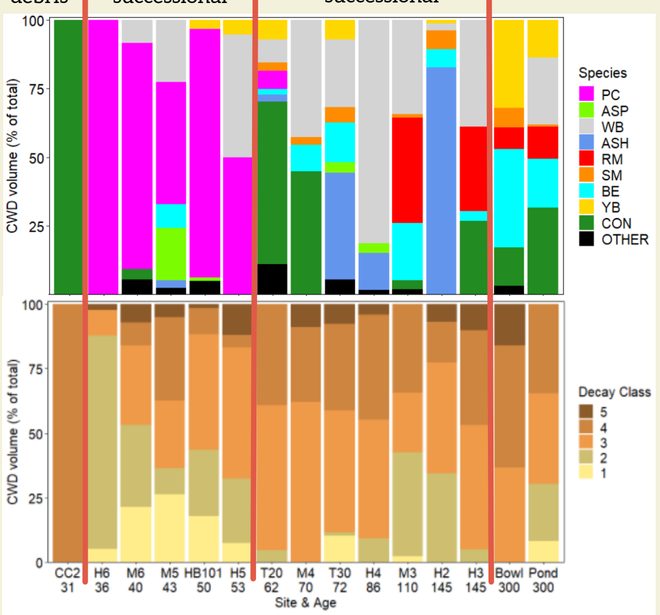
Biomass of downed wood is not significantly different between oldest chronosequence and true old growth sites.



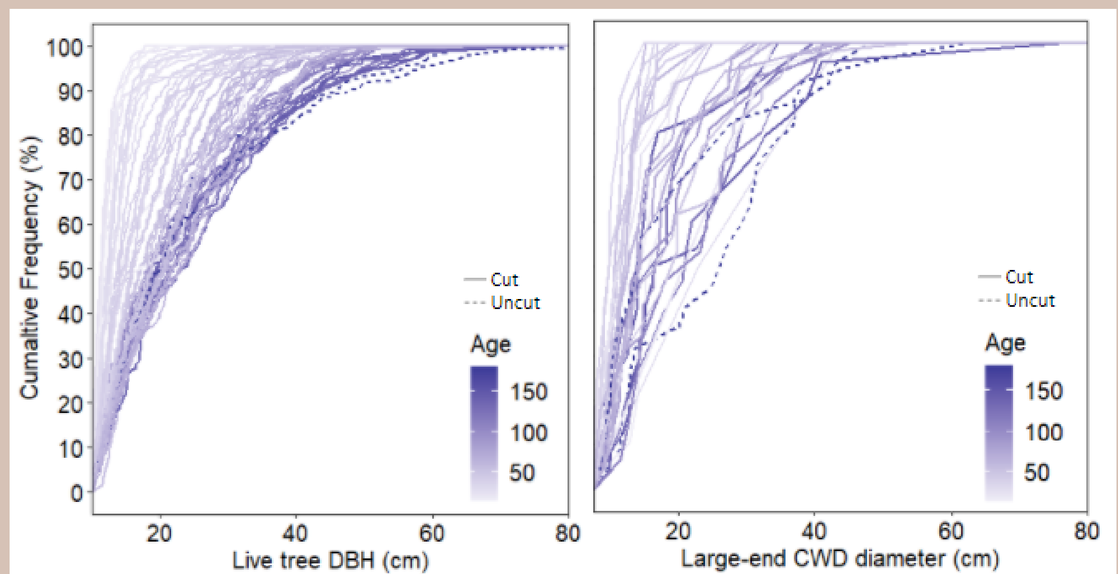
Twig biomass peaks during stem exclusion, and is higher in stands dominated by pin cherry.



The pool of downed wood changes in response to overstory succession:



More large living and downed trees in the true old growth sites compared to the oldest chronosequence sites.



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