

# **Palouse Prairie-Forest Edge: Then and Now**

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Though wildfires are rare now, we learned from dating fires on old stumps that fires happened every 5 to 8 years in the forests on the edge of the Palouse prairie 1650-1900. From field notes land surveyors made in the late 1870s, we know the adjacent prairie was extensive. Today, agriculture has replaced both prairie and what once were open ponderosa pine forests, while forest patches once had more ponderosa pine than they do now. What are the conservation implications? Today we have some lightning but few wildfires. What will the future hold?

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