

# Deer Vs. Forest

## High Forest or Wood Pasture: A model of Large Herbivores' impact on European Lowland Vegetation

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**Question:** How did the primeval forest look like before human impact ?  
Possible application: Conservation management, nature-friendly land use practices, forest restoration, etc.

### Alternative Answers

**High Forest Theory**

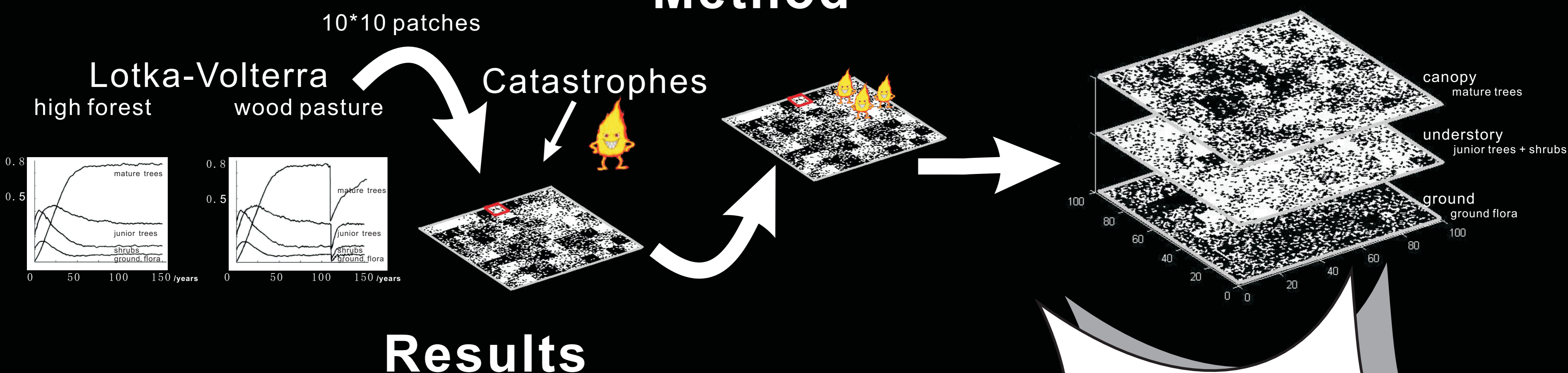
- Closed-canopy mature trees
- Regeneration in canopy gaps
- Herbivore has no impact
- Bottom-up

Vs.

**Wood Pasture Hypothesis**

- Cycling process  
open land - shrub dominating - wood pasture - break-up
- Regeneration in open period
- Herbivore drives the whole process
- Top-down

### Method



### Results

**Wood Pasture**  
homogeneous landscape

**High Forest**

**Wood Pasture**  
disparate landscape

Significant Difference	High Forest Vs. Wood Pasture (homogeneous landscape)		High Forest Vs. Wood Pasture (disparate landscape)	
	Spatial	Temporal	Spatial	Temporal
Canopy	✗	✓	✓	✓
Understory	✗	✓	✓	✗
Ground	✗	✗	✗	✗

### Conclusions

- These two hypotheses suggested
1. different temporal pattern on homogenous land, but similar spatial pattern.
  2. different temporal and spatial pattern on disparate land.
  3. Canopy differs most under two different dynamics.

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