

After the Fire...

Mt. Lemmon, near Tucson, Arizona

Penny Savoie, Sahuaro High School, Tucson, Arizona; Donna Sider, Baboquivari Middle School, Sells, Arizona Earth Camp for Educators 2012

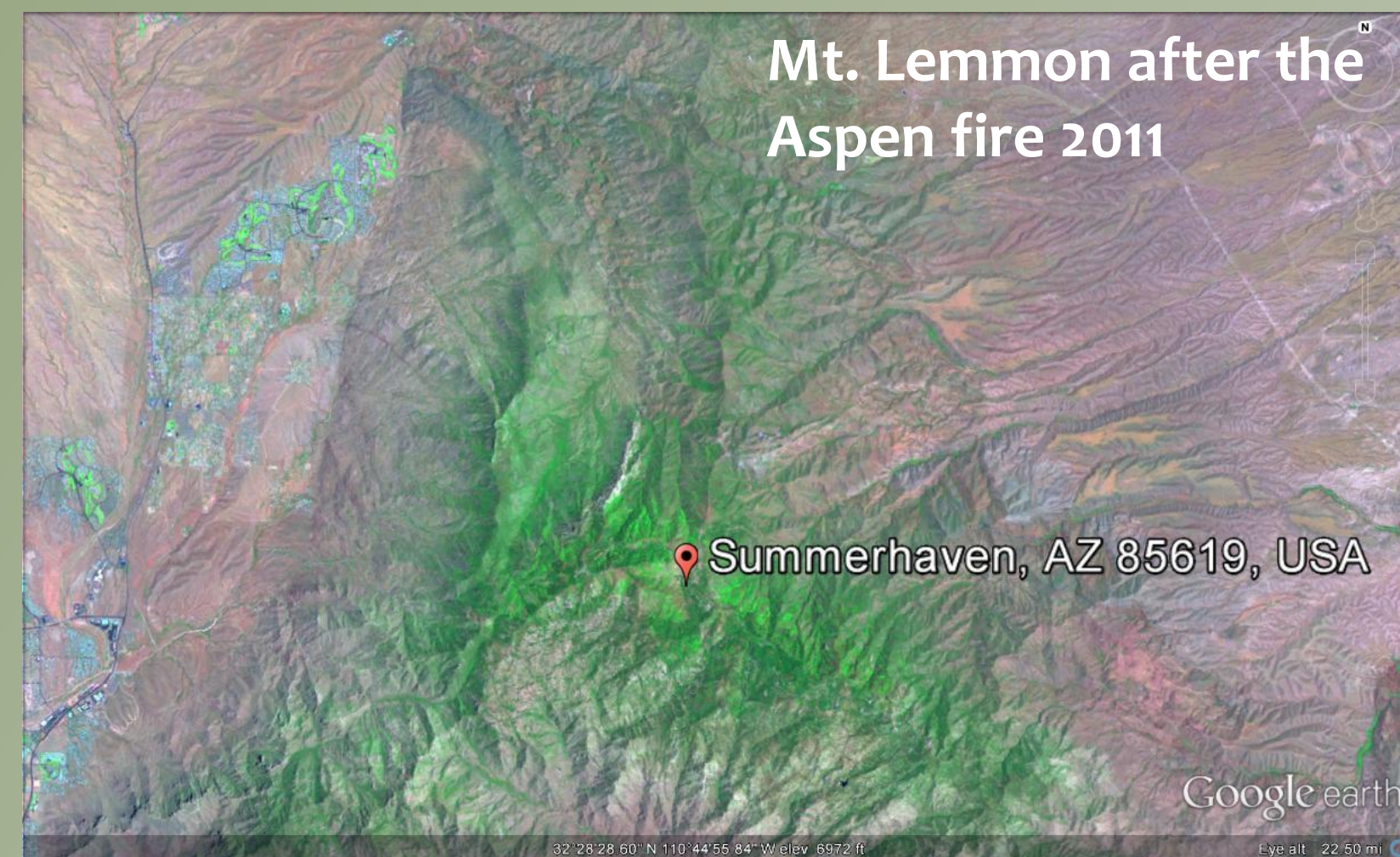
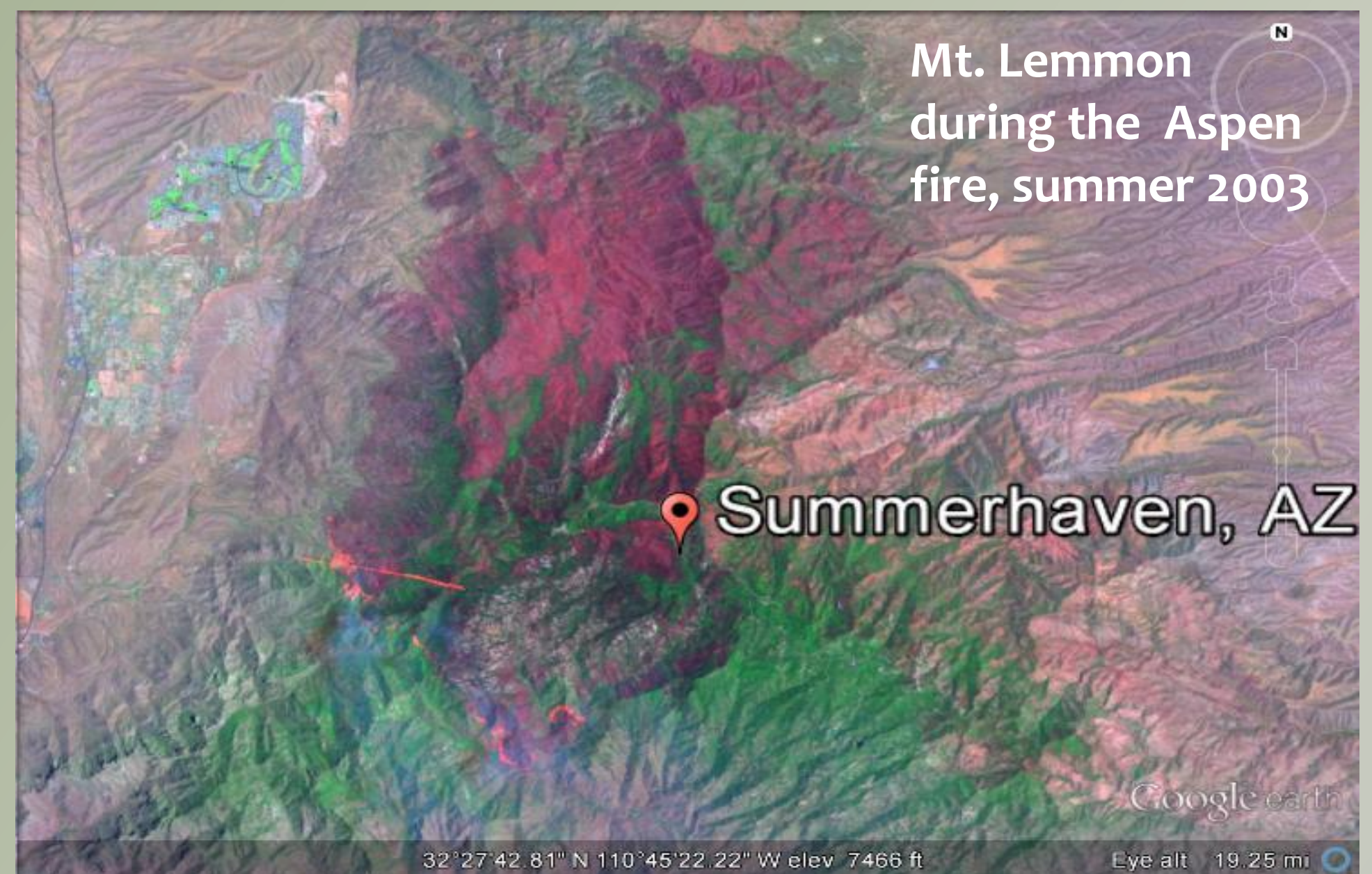


The Power of Perspective

Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA.

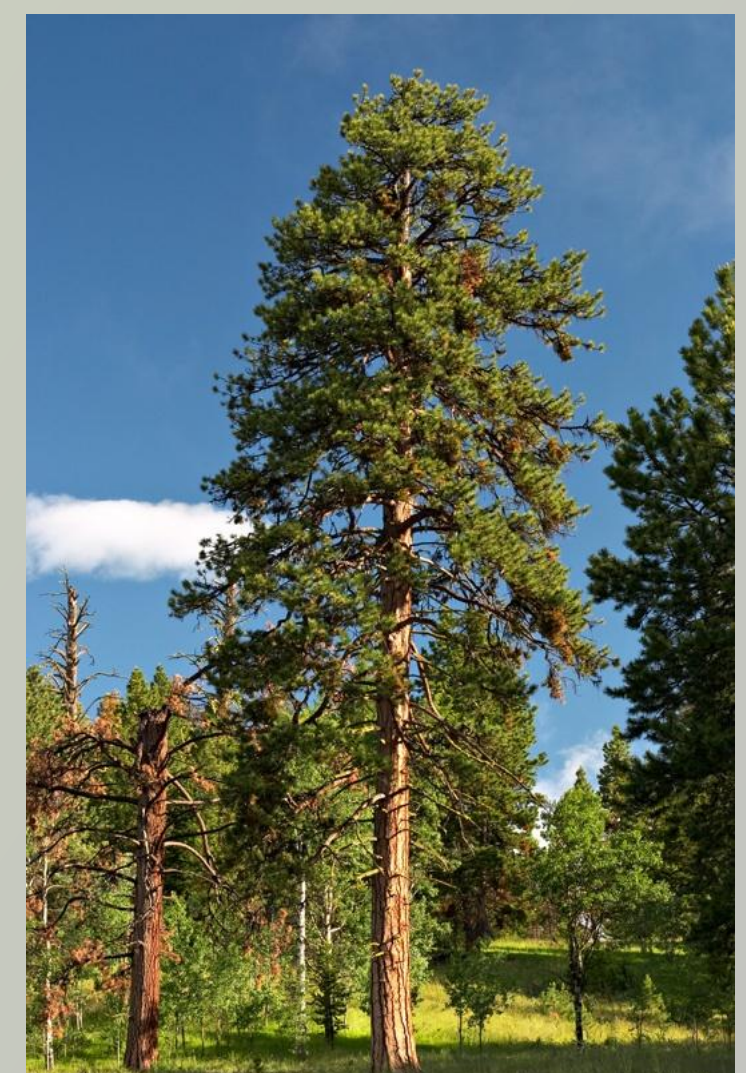
The Aspen Fire burned almost 85,000 acres of forest in June/July of 2003. Reforestation is a long process. It may not be completed in one human lifetime, but of course, this is just "seconds" in the history of the mountain. Precipitation is critical to re-growth, so the current drought in the region may be slowing this process.

Due to global warming, a different kind of forest may emerge after the fire. Ecological time, not human time, will tell

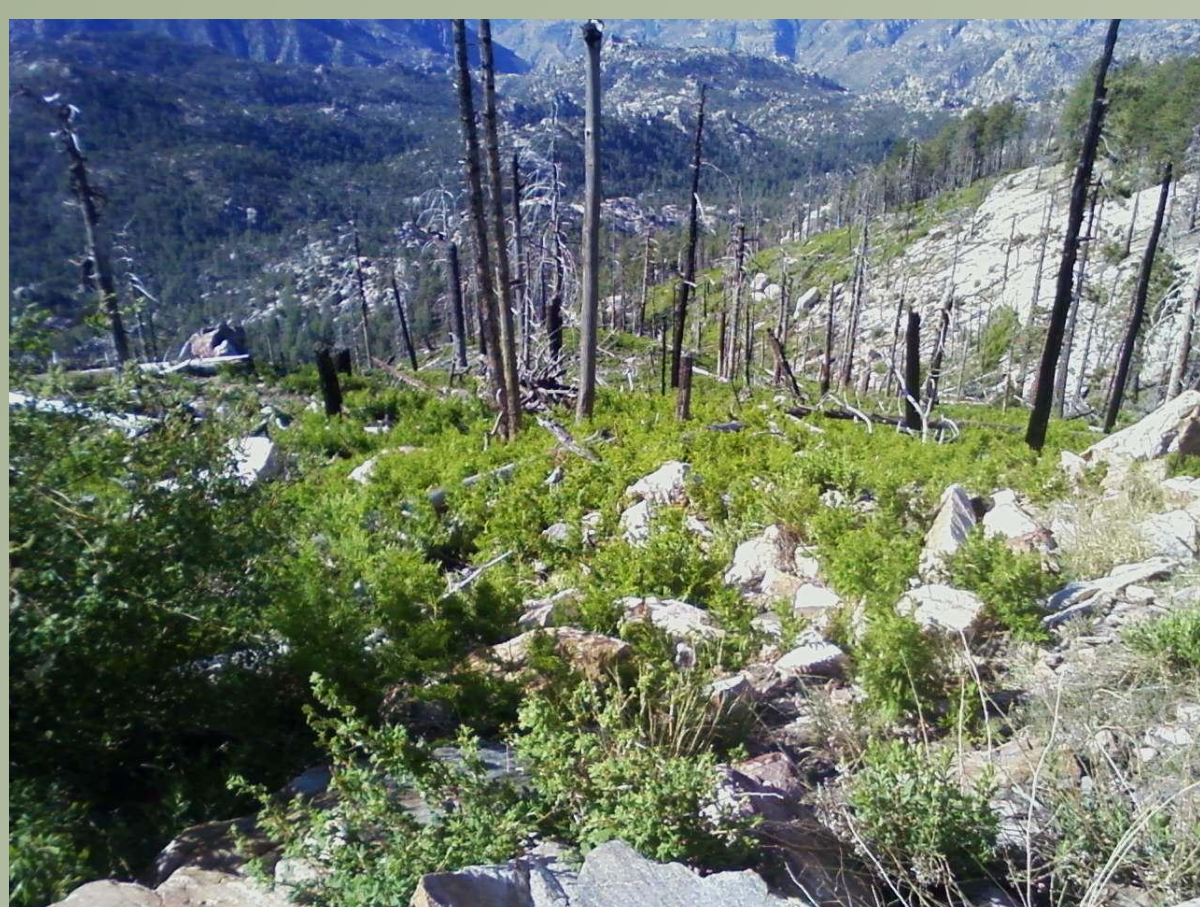


Key/Legend:

- In these false-color images,
- Bright Green- Healthy Vegetation
- Red-Fires
- Pink- Barren Soil
- Orange/Brown- Sparse Vegetation



A Ponderosa Pine takes from 70 to 250 years to reach maturity.



Mt. Lemmon 2012 transect area

In a 2012 transect of 126 sq. ft. in the burned area, we recorded 189 grasses, ferns, and weeds with only one pine sapling that had grown back in the last eight years. In the unburned area, 380 plants and two pine trees were found in a similar transect.

Funding provided by a grant from NASA's Competitive Program for Science Museums and Planetariums

