

Additional file 1 Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS) metadata information for the burn severity classification of each fire used in this analysis; all information is from the MTBS fire bundle download (www.mtbs.gov). Note that percentages of burn severity classes will not sum to 100 due to non-processing mask (scan line error, cloud cover, water, etc.) included in the product.

	Chicken Fire	Porcupine Fire	Wall Street Fire
Pre-fire image (satellite, acquisition date)	Landsat 5 20 July 2003	Landsat 5, 20 July 2003	Landsat 5, 20 July 2003
Post-fire image (satellite, acquisition date)	Landsat 7 31 August 2004	Landsat 7, 31 August 2004	Landsat 5, 27 July 2005
Burn severity distribution: unburn, low, moderate, high, increased green (%)	11, 16, 27, 12, 0.5	9, 11, 23, 7, 0	10, 18, 20, 2, 0