

NITROGEN AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

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2024

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Models

Figure 1a. Anatomy of Catastrophic Regime Shift (CRS) / State Transition Model: CRS models provide a powerful tool for identifying drivers of declines in ecosystem integrity and providing insight for restoration of critical processes to achieve high quality, native, functional and self-reinforcing ecosystem that are provisional of ecosystem services. See, (Scheffer 2001, 2003, Carpenter 2006, 2008, 2011, Folke 2004, Biggs 2009, Davis 2010, Archibald 2012, Ratajczak 2014, Conversi, 2015, 2019, Luvuno 2018, Wang 2018).

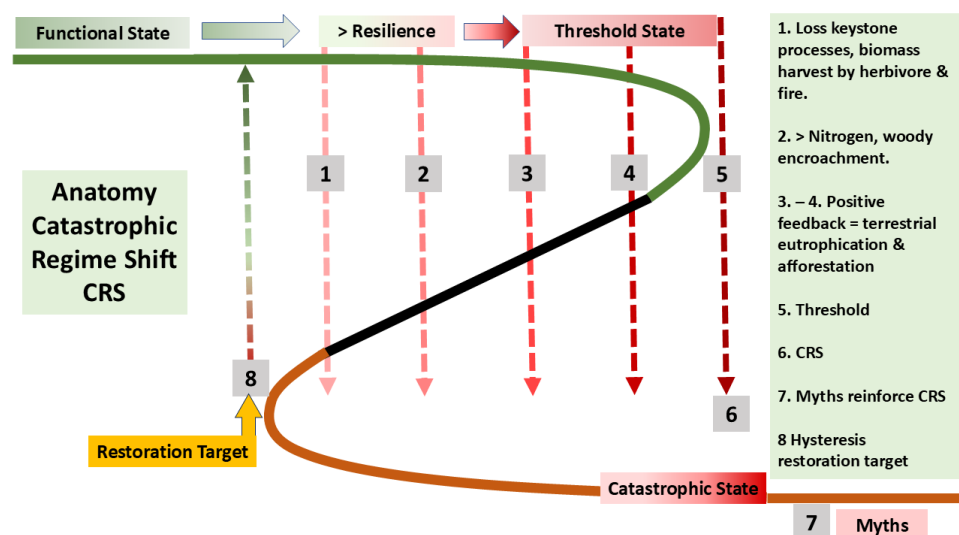


Figure 1b. Simulation of Catastrophic Regime Shift (CRS) / State Transition Model:

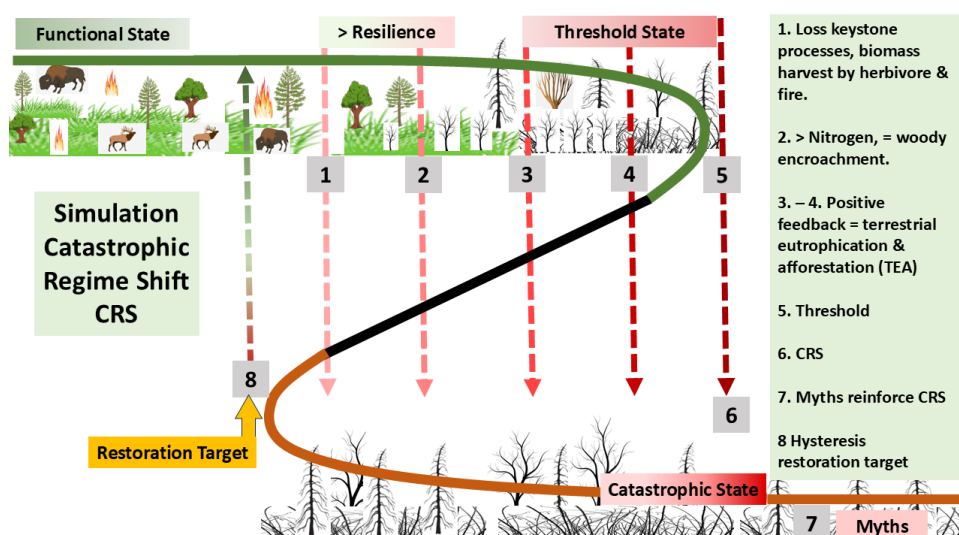


Figure 2a. Terrestrial Eutrophication and Afforestation (TEA) Model for Hardwood Savanna Ecosystems: TEA is a positive feedback loop that emerges once a threshold is exceeded. Positive feedback loops are nonlinear properties that rapidly cascade highly evolved functional ecosystems into catastrophic dysfunctional ecosystems (Figures 1a. – 1c). Loss of keystone processes (LKP) causes the collapse of foodwebs that in turn collapses nutrient cycles. Collapsed nutrient cycles cause soil eutrophication, in particular, by nitrogen. In turn, nitrogen favors faster-taller, weedier plants (**nitrophytes** / **r-strategist**). Faster-taller herbaceous plants are soon subsumed by weedy woody species. In turn, weedy woody species store nutrients above ground in non-edible, labile structures that rapidly decompose nutrients to feed nitrophilic propagules. Soon, faster-taller trees and shrubs out-compete **K-strategist** for sunlight. The dying opens niches spaces and releases nutrients that finalize the nitrophilic take-over. Soon, state dynamics (energy flows and nutrient cycles) are controlled by nitrophiles that reinforce eutrophic, toxic, dysfunctional conditions that erode ecological capital. Soils erode, banks slough, and nutrients spew, all pulled by gravity downward through watersheds and terminally depositing into the aquatic, and the devastation continues. The TEA model is analogous to aquatic eutrophication and represents a classic CRS example. The TEA model is also directly responsible for aquatic eutrophication.

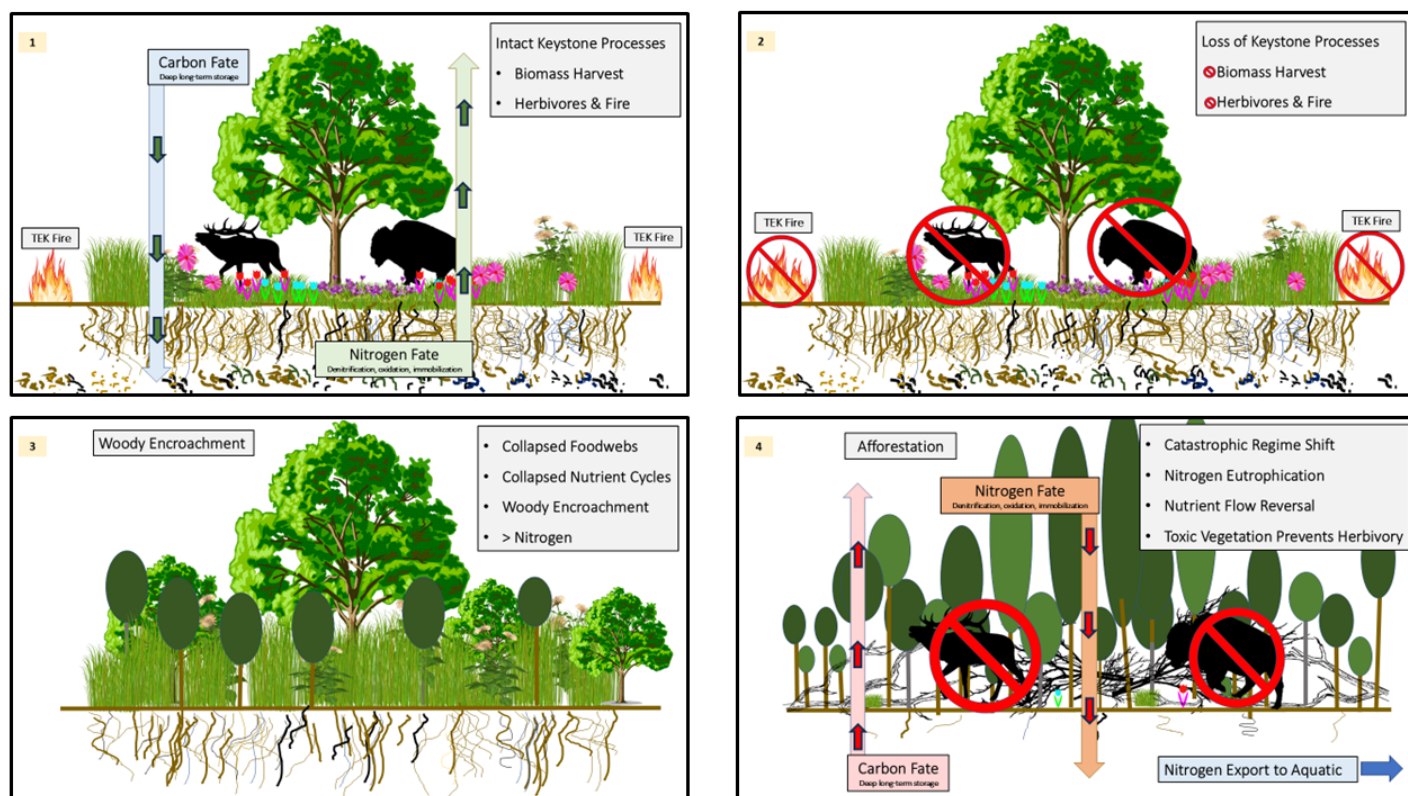


Figure 2b. Terrestrial Eutrophication and Afforestation (TEA) Model for Northern Mixed Coniferous Deciduous Savanna Ecosystems:

