Imagine a forest with a mixed-severity fire regime. The forest looks out of whack because there have been no low-severity fires since 1900, there have been more and more white firs growing in, and there have been no ponderosa pines or Jeffrey pines establishing. The loss of the pines – and the closure of the forest due to white fir regeneration – alter the habitat for understory plants and for animals that rely on open habitat with big, old trees.