

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Fly Ranch is a unique, sensitive landscape with the ecological potential to sequester carbon on a large scale. However, human occupation, grazing, climate change, and invasive vegetation have instead depleted the habitat of the Greater Sage-grouse and other birds, insects and animals and set up the perfect conditions for catastrophic wildfires. This proposal begins with the assertion

that Fly Ranch must not be a location of permanent human habitation, infrastructure construction, waste processing, or water extraction, as proposed in the competition brief.

Furthermore, Burning Man can never be sustainable - only less bad. With some thought, Burning Man might be transformed to be energy-neutral by

converting vehicle fuel sources to biofuel or electric, processing waste and garbage differently, harvesting and pumping water using less energy-intensive means, and offsetting environmental impacts through carbon credits or utilizing the site of Fly Ranch. However, these activities are still inherently energy-intensive and ecologically extractive. A less bad Burning Man will never embody the festival's

larger sustainability ethos nor would it address the immediate existential threat of climate change.

Instead, by dramatically reconceiving both Burning Man and Fly Ranch, we can shatter the illusion of "less bad" and imagine an ecologically productive festival and landscape.



credit: <http://sfcitizen.com/> bikes left on the plays after Burning Man



credit: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/burning-man-cleanup> dust on the plays after the festival



credit: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/burning-man-cleanup> cleaning up "MOOP," including screws and nails after Burning Man



credit: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2015/09/04/burning-man-trash-collectors-help-reduce-garbage-reno/1187739002/> garbage piles

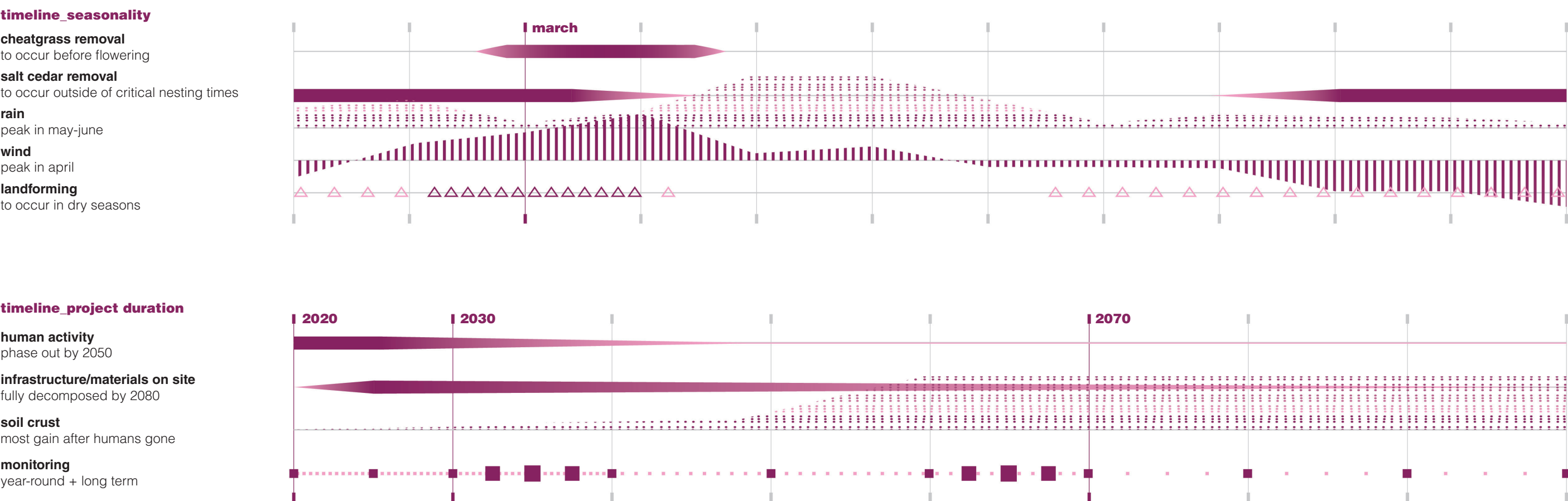
AN ALTERNATIVE BURNING MAN @ FLY RANCH

This proposal begins with the radical idea that large-scale human impacts can and must be generative. On a planet that is on fire and subsumed by rising oceans, there is no time left for off-setting and no benefit from mitigation. The ethos of "Leave No Trace" becomes the ethos of "Leave Catalytic

Traces." **Catalytic Traces** unites Burning Man and Fly Ranch to create a 4-dimensional artwork. Through **Catalytic Traces**, humans, microbes, plants, animals, wind, and water cycles generate cascading natural processes adapted to our new (dystopic) normal. Carefully choreographed human

actions set the artwork in motion and direct its 50 year interspecies collaboration. During the month-long **Catalytic Traces Festival** in March, humans, soil, water, microbes, plants, and animals "sculpt" the site. Overtime, biodiversity increases and wildfire risk decreases. Threatened

native vegetation, birds, animals, and insects reappear. Sounds of chirping and rustling return. And after 50 years, the humans leave the Festival - and Fly Ranch continues its cycles of long-term change and adaptation.



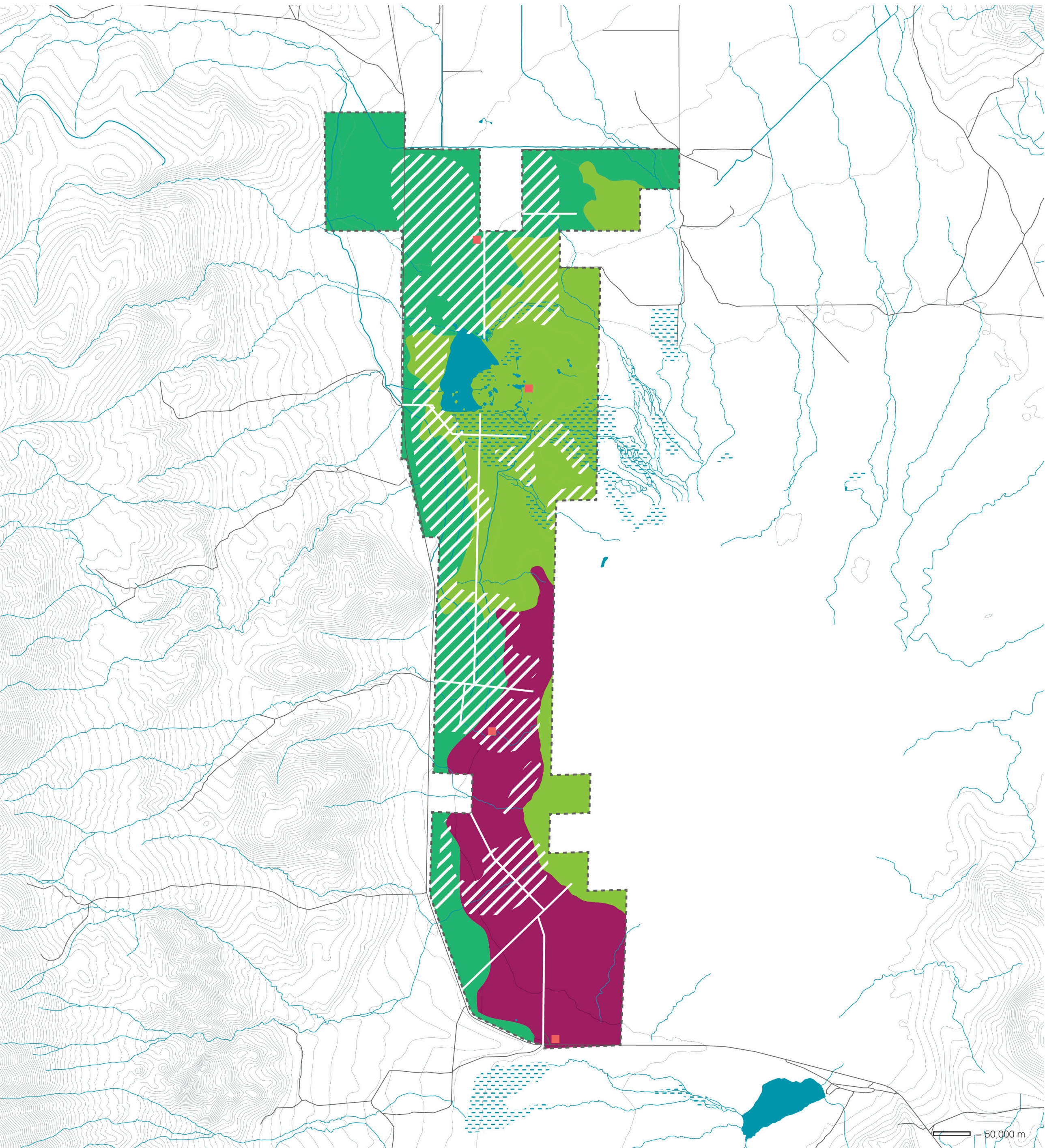
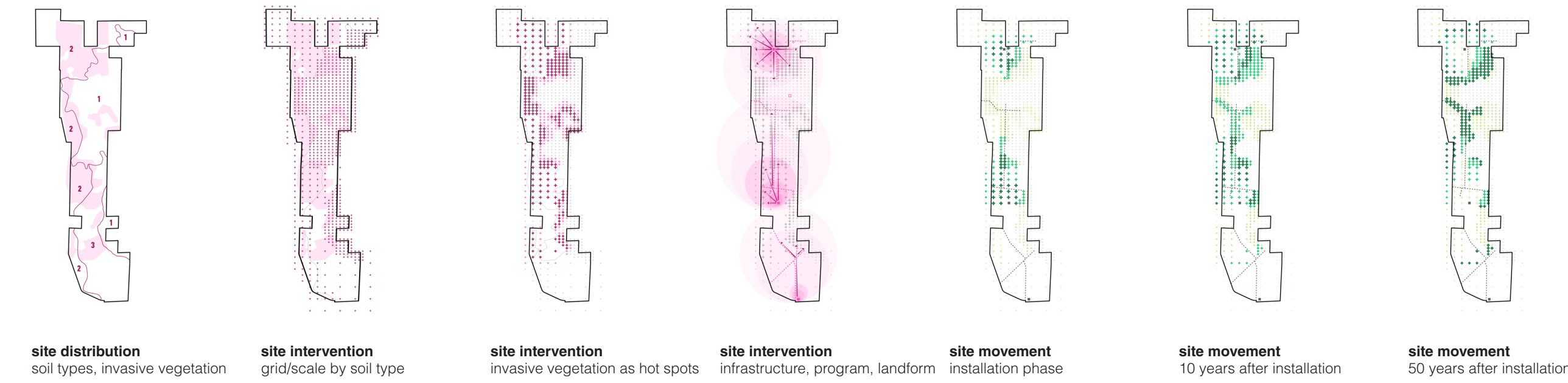
WASTE = RESOURCES

Materials, waste and infrastructure play an important role to the construction of Fly Ranch. Rather than disposing garbage off site, all waste is seen as resources, and used to construct the

temporary infrastructure, paths, and shelter on site. Organic waste is processed on site and allowed to decompose, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

- recycled materials: wood, brick, tarps, glass bottles
- biodegradable waste: food, packaging, paper
- human waste: compostable toilets
- temporary constructed elements: shelter, floating wood paths
- compost / organic material: piles, add organic material
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SITE STRATEGY



The site strategy for Fly Ranch emerges from understanding its existing conditions, including soil types, depths, and availability of water. This organizes the site into three zones: where high impact activities can happen without causing additional ecological damage, where specific vegetation can grow, and where it is suitable for intensive ecological restoration. Overlaying the map with documented zones of high invasive vegetation and site disturbance results in a site strategy diagram locating ecological and human programmatic elements tied to existing conditions and the site's intrinsic carrying capacity. Interventions target areas with high levels of site disturbance, leaving the rest of the site undisturbed.

- sagebrush restoration: deep soil, sandy loam, well drained
- disturb least - moss / soil crust: higher clay + silt, low sand
- infiltration: highly permeable, not suitable for soil crust or sagebrush
- high levels of invasive vegetation: focus on removal
- water
- wetland
- well