

Ecology — the study of organisms, their interactions with each other, & their environment

Biosphere — ^{all} places where life can exist

"Riparian" or
streamside
ecosystem

↗ this
classroom

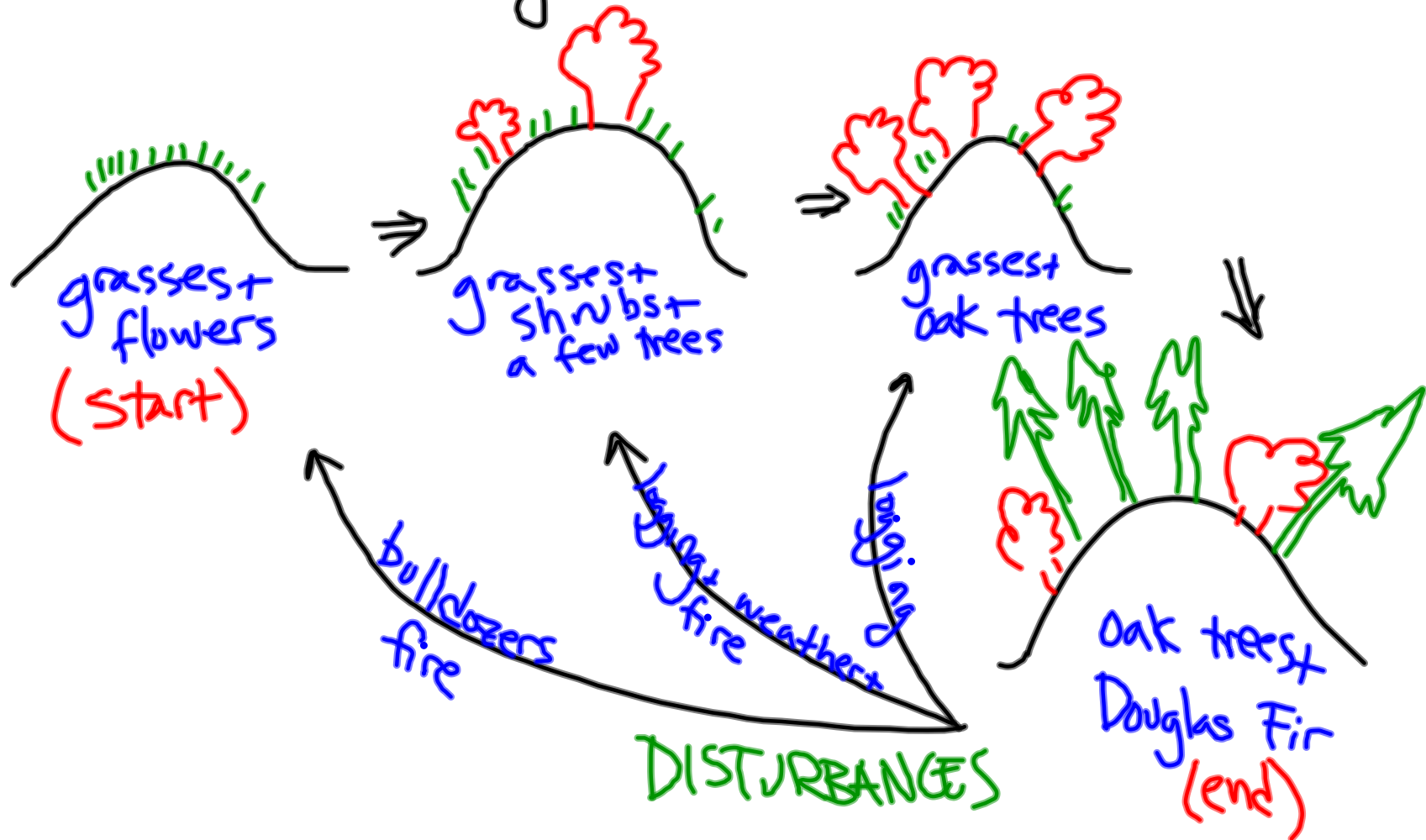
Ecosystem — a description of a place where ecological interactions can occur

abiotic factor: non-living part of the environment

biotic factor: living organisms in the environment

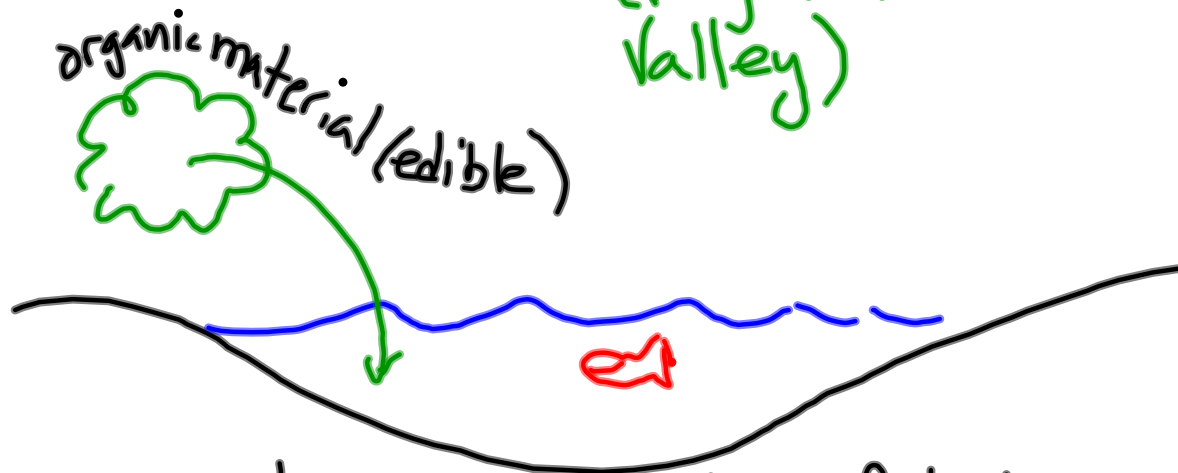
ecological succession: a process through which groups of organisms in an ecosystem become more & less abundant over time. Usually directional - there is a start, there are different stages, and there is an end.

Willamette Valley Succession:



climax community: the last (ending) stage of succession

(Douglas firs in the Willamette Valley)



- explosion in populations of bacteria, fungi, & protists
- these organisms breathe oxygen from the water
- fish & other organisms can suffocate